

Thatcher heads for Gulf talks with Bush

LONDON (R) — British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher left London Saturday for the United States for expected talks on the Gulf crisis with President George Bush. As Thatcher flew to New York, where she will also attend the U.N. summit for children, British forces in West Germany began loading tanks on ships bound for the Gulf. Britain is sending its 7th armoured brigade — descendants of the World War II "desert rats" who fought German Panzer divisions across North Africa — to join the multinational force confronting Iraq. The brigade, with 120 tanks as well as other armoured vehicles and artillery, is Britain's first major contribution to ground troops in the Gulf. It already has air and sea forces in the region, including Tornado fighters, Jaguar ground-attack aircraft, two destroyers, two frigates, minehunters and support ships. Government sources said Thatcher was likely to discuss the Gulf with Bush Sunday. It will be their first face-to-face meeting since Iraq invaded Kuwait on Aug. 2, although they have conferred by telephone.

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Qasem meets counterparts

NEW YORK (Petra) — Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem met in the past few days with several foreign ministers taking part in the meetings of the 45th session of the U.N. General Assembly. Qasem met the foreign ministers of Pakistan, Indonesia, Belgium, the Netherlands, Finland, the Soviet Union, Britain, Canada, Greece, France and Iran and discussed with them bilateral relations and the latest developments in the Gulf region. Qasem is also holding contacts with Arab foreign ministers to discuss ways to solve the Gulf crisis in a way that can solve rifts among Arab states.

Sheikh Jaber sends message to Rafsanjani

NICOSIA (R) — The state minister for foreign affairs in the top-level Kuwaiti government, Sheikh Nasser Mohammad Al Ahmad, left Iran Saturday after three days of talks on the Gulf crisis, Iran's national news agency IRNA said. Sheikh Nasser described his talks with Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Ali Mohammad Besharati as constructive and thanked Iran for its stance on the Gulf crisis. He left Tehran for Dubai, said IRNA which is received in Cyprus. The Kuwaiti minister delivered a message from the exiled emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, to President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani. The visit was the second by a Kuwaiti minister to Iran since Iraq took over the emirate Aug. 2.

Mauritania sends message to Iraq

NICOSIA (R) — Mauritania's interior minister arrived in Baghdad Saturday with a message from his president for Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein on developments in the Gulf crisis and bilateral relations, Baghdad Radio reported. The radio said the message from Mauritanian President Maazouya Ould Sid'ahmed Taya was carried by Interior Minister Djibril Ould Abdallah. Mauritania supports Baghdad in the Gulf crisis.

Khaddam visits Egypt today

CAIRO (R) — Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam will visit Cairo Sunday, Egypt's Middle East News Agency (MENA) reported Saturday. It said Prime Minister Atif Sadiq would greet Khaddam at the airport but gave no other details.

Indian ship ferries 700 refugees

BAHRAIN (AP) — The Indian passenger ship Tippu Sultan sailed down the Gulf Saturday carrying some 700 Indian refugees from Kuwait. It was the second time in three weeks that Iraq has allowed the evacuation of stranded foreigners by sea from Kuwait. The Al Safer, also Indian, brought out 725 earlier this month in a 30-hour journey in the sweltering Gulf heat.

Bhutto 'will not be rubber stamp'

KARACHI (R) — Sacked Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto promised bold, uncompromising government if she is returned to power in elections next month. "I will not be a rubber stamp prime minister," Bhutto told a meeting of business leaders Saturday. "I was not a rubber stamp prime minister (before her Aug. 6 dismissal)," she said. "And I do not want to rubber stamp the decisions of civil servants." Bhutto is due to appear in a Karachi court Sunday to answer charges of abusing power while in office.

Explosion kills 15 in Mogadishu

MOGADISHU (AP) — An explosion Saturday at the headquarters of the national custodial police on the southern outskirts of Mogadishu killed at least five people, sources said. A source close to the president's office, who declined to be identified, said the explosion appeared to be accidental.

King receives Iraqi message

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday received a message from Iraqi President Saddam Hussein on the latest developments in the Gulf crisis and believed contain Iraq's response to a series of Arab and international initiatives to end the crisis.

The message was delivered by Iraqi Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz, who arrived here Saturday morning and left in the evening after talks with the King over lunch. No further details were given by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, which reported the meeting.

The talks were attended by Prime Minister Mudar Badran and Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker. Aziz was accompanied by Saad Qasem Hammoudi, head of the Arab Affairs Department at the Iraqi Foreign Ministry and Iraqi Ambassador to Jordan Nouri Ismail.

The Iraqi message to Jordan follows several proposals presented by Arab and foreign leaders, including one produced by

the King, Algerian President Chadli Benjedid and King Hassan II of Morocco last week, and a four-stage plan tabled by French President Francois Mitterrand at the United Nations General Assembly on Monday.

In addition, Tunisia was reported to have made "certain specific suggestions" to facilitate peace efforts.

While it has not commented on the Jordanian-Algerian-Moroccan initiative, Iraq has welcomed the French plan.

Yemeni leader Ali Abdullah Saleh is expected to present an initiative to end the Gulf crisis to the Security Council, Jordan Television reported Friday without giving details.

According to a Swedish official, Iraq is now "seriously" studying peace proposals.

"We are starting to distinguish certain results," Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Pierre Schori told a news briefing in Stockholm.

"The sanctions have started to bite, we know that, and various peace proposals are for the first time being discussed seriously," he said. He said Sweden has

emissaries in the Gulf region, but be did not elaborate on the peace proposals or the effects of the sanctions.

Mitterrand has suggested that an Iraq withdrawal from Kuwait should be followed by an international solution for the Middle East crisis, including the civil war in Lebanon and Palestinian aspirations for an independent state.

"Mitterrand's peace plan has not been rejected but appears in discussions on a serious level," Schori said.

A Jordanian cabinet official told the Associated Press that the Iraqi message to the King dealt "with the tense situation in the Gulf region." He did not elaborate.

In a later telephone interview, the official told the AP Aziz briefed King Hussein on the situation in the Gulf.

"We want to advance peace in this region and reach a peaceful settlement to the conflict," said the official.

He described Aziz's visit and talks here "important, especially in this period."

Parliament opening session postponed until Nov. 18

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Royal Decree was issued Saturday, postponing the opening of the regular session of Parliament from Oct. 1 to Nov. 18, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

Parliament ended an unusually lengthy extraordinary session earlier this month. While this was cited by some deputies as the reason for the delay while some others said the exigencies of the Gulf crisis were behind the move.

Normally, Parliament opens Oct. 1 and takes a recess January and it can be called to an extraordinary session by a Royal Decree.

"The postponement was expected since the extraordinary session was long," said Amman Deputy Hammam Saeed.

He said, however, deputies had not asked for a postponement and hinted that a possible cabinet reshuffle might have prompted the decision.

Deputy Yaacoub Qarash, an independent Islamist deputy from Amman, said he would have preferred to have the House meet as scheduled. "At this stage in the life and history of our country and region, we require increased participation in decision-making by the people's representatives."

"We know that the leadership is under enormous pressure," he said. "But the people can always endure the pressure and support their leadership."

In any event, he said, the postponement "gives us time to prepare well before the session opens" Nov. 18.

Advocated a longer working session of Parliament.

Deputy Thouran Hindawi noted that the postponement of the session "is within the constitutional powers of His Majesty the King, who can delay the opening up to a period of two months."

"Perhaps the developments in the region and Jordan's position and viewpoints towards these developments might have prompted His Majesty's decision," Hindawi told the Jordan Times.

Deputy Deeb Marji agreed but said, "we would have liked to have taken an active part in the situation."

In any event, he said, the postponement "gives us time to prepare well before the session opens" Nov. 18.

German court rejects election plan

KARLSRUHE (Agencies) — West Germany's highest court on Saturday rejected a plan for unified German elections Dec. 2 because it hurts small parties, including East Germany's former communists.

The constitutional court's decision will not stop German unification Wednesday, but it will require parties to agree on a new system for electing a united German parliament — one that will correspond to the odious nature of the court's standards.

West German Justice Minister Hans Engelhard said his government will try to meet the Dec. 2 election date and respect the decision of the constitutional court.

West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, in the meantime, will be in charge of a united Germany after Wednesday, when his cabinet and the West German parliament will be expanded to include East German representatives.

The constitutional court acted on a complaint brought by East Germany's former Communist Party, the environmental Greens coalition, and the far-right Republicans.

Hans Christian Stroehle, spokesman for the Greens, called the ruling "sweet success against the arrogance of the cocky dominant party."

The court objected to the rule that all parties must poll at least five per cent across Germany to win any seats in the new all-German parliament.

France to 'retaliate' if Iraq linked to Djibouti blast

PARIS (R) — Foreign Minister Roland Dumas said Saturday France would retaliate if Iraq was linked to a grenade attack on a crowded cafe in Djibouti that killed a French boy.

The blast Thursday was apparently aimed at off-duty French troops in the Red Sea state who have been reinforced since the Gulf crisis.

Asked on television what France would do if the attack was traced to Baghdad or its "agents," Dumas said: "There will certainly be French reaction, better believe it, and it will correspond to the odious nature of this attack."

The nine-year-old boy of a French warrant officer was killed and 17 people were injured in the grenade attack on a cafe frequented by off-duty troops. Fifteen of the injured were French.

Reports from Djibouti, rear base for the French military presence confronting Iraqi forces in the Gulf, said investigators had arrested several people, but there was no word on who was responsible for the attack.

Dumas, interviewed in New York by the TV Channel Antenne 2, said the attack coincided with high tension in the Gulf and the massing of international forces to challenge Iraq's takeover of Kuwait.

Police in Djibouti again questioned a taxi driver who was taken hostage by the four attackers and whose vehicle was used as a getaway car and dumped about 30 kilometers southwest of the city.

Officials said three of the injured were still in a serious condition, including the father of the dead boy.

There was however "No particular element of investigation or of claim yet to lead to such formal conclusions," Dumas added.

Sources in Djibouti described the capital as tense and said French nationals had been

advised to stay indoors. Normally busy bars and hotels were empty and shut early Friday.

They said there was still no clue as to who was behind the attack, and no one has claimed responsibility. But informed sources said some of those arrested were believed to be of Somali origin.

Supporters of Iraq demonstrated in the Somali capital of Mogadishu in support of Baghdad.

Since the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, France has increased its military presence in Djibouti from the permanent 4,000 troops agreed in a 1977 pact to over 15,000.

On Thursday Djibouti's Prime Minister Barkat Gouraud Hamdane met the deposed emir of Kuwait at the United Nations in New York and reaffirmed his country's support for moves to expel all Iraqi forces from Kuwait, newspapers reported Saturday.

A spokesman for the French army said: "Our troops are in Djibouti under accords that recognize its independence. Everything is therefore under the control of the Republic of Djibouti."

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A French diplomat said the attack on the Cafe de Paris was clearly aimed at French troops stationed in Djibouti.

Commenting on earlier reports that foreigners in Iraq would be denied food supplies as of Monday, the minister said that what happened is that some countries that have expatriates in Iraq sought through United Nations bodies to secure additional food for their nationals.

He said they sought "quantities of food more than 10 times larger than the shares allotted to those included by the ration card system, and when we rejected these unjust demands they embarked on a smear campaign against Iraq," Saleh said.

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Big powers reject linkage of Gulf crisis with Palestine

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The foreign ministers of the big five powers of the U.N. Security Council Friday agreed to support an "active negotiating process" on the Arab-Israeli conflict but rejected any linkage to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, a senior Western official said.

Ministers from the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain, France and China, permanent members of the council, met Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to give him their views on the Gulf crisis and Cambodia, main issues of close cooperation among the five in the past few months.

In a communiqué, the five said Iraq's "aggressive action" against Kuwait must not be tolerated and demanded again that Baghdad withdraw from Kuwait and allow all foreign nationals to leave the two countries.

Expressing deep concern at the

increased tension in the Middle East, the five "reaffirmed their determination to support an active negotiating process in which all relevant parties would participate, leading to a comprehensive, just and lasting peace."

In particular they agreed on the right to seek for all states in the region, including Israel and supported the "legitimate rights" of the Palestinian people."

But the senior official said the five refused to accept attempts by Iraq to link withdrawal from Kuwait to a settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict as this would damage progress on both issues.

But at the same time he said it was essential to give high priority to the Palestinian problem.

Iraq as well as other Arab and Third World countries have frequently pointed to the big powers' quick action on the Gulf compared to every other conflict

Iraq 'biological warfare capability' reportedly growing

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. intelligence has reported that Iraq will have a significant number of biological weapons ready for battlefield use in a few months, the Washington Post reported Saturday.

The Iraqi arsenal was reported to include weapons that can spread anthrax, an airborne virus that causes haemorrhaging and may be fatal, the newspaper quoted intelligence and congressional officials as saying.

The intelligence report was disclosed by Representative Les Aspin, chairman of the House of Representatives Armed Services Committee, the paper said. Aspin was quoted as saying it would be an "important ingredient" in Bush administration's consideration of any military action against Iraqi forces.

Recent discussions between President George Bush and the congressional leadership indicated there was "more and more evidence that the administration is looking favourably on an early war option."

Aspin, a Wisconsin Democrat, could not be reached for further comment. It was not clear where he had been speaking.

U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Director William Webster said in congressional testimony last year that Iraq was developing biological weapons with the aid of equipment bought in Western Europe.

Aspin was quoted as saying Iraq was expected to have a military significant biological programme by the end of this year or early next year.

"This will be a new dimension to the problem. It is a more important and more serious element than the chemical threat. It is a harder thing to deal with," the Post quoted him as saying.

Biological weapons are considered a more deadly threat than chemical weapons because they can be deployed covertly with little chance of immediate detection and can linger and do damage for an extended time.

Chemical weapons have an almost immediate effect on the body and tend to disperse quickly in the atmosphere and become impotent.



Toshiki Kaifu

not be forgiven" and said Japan was considering changing its laws to allow it to take part in U.N. peacekeeping efforts.

But he pledged that Japan would never again become a military power.

"We have learned our lesson never to be a military power," he said, referring to the Japanese defeat in World War II.

Kaifu added: "There are voices that the United States is in decline, but there is no change of the U.S. role in the world. The United States has a global ability to maintain peace and order in the world and we still need the United States as a deterrent against incursions in various parts of the world."

But he added: "It is important we not rely on the United States alone to maintain world order."

Asian plan for Gulf peace in the offing

NEW YORK (AP) — Bangladesh President Hussein Muhammad Ershad said Friday six Asian Muslim nations would present an initiative urging Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait, restore its exiled government and join in regional disarmament.

In a luncheon meeting with executives of the Associated Press here, Ershad said Bangladesh, Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Maldives and Pakistan soon would make their appeal to Iraq.

Together, he said, those nations represent more than 400 million Muslims.

"We have a solid front and hope to exert moral pressure," said Ershad. "We think that as Muslim countries we should do everything possible" to help resolve the crisis.

But he did not indicate optimism that Iraq would be responsive.

But if he accedes, Ershad said, then Middle East states should agree to regional disarmament in order to reduce the risk of war.

Ershad was in New York to address the U.N. General Assembly and attend the weekend's world summit for children. He also will meet with U.S. President George Bush to discuss the Gulf crisis and other issues.

Bangladesh has contributed 3,000 troops to the multinational force in Saudi Arabia, including infantry, engineers, supply and medical corps, strictly for defensive purposes, he said.

Japanese prime minister defends Gulf response

NEW YORK (R) — Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu has defended his country's response to the Gulf crisis and said Japan was among the first to act following Iraq's August 2 invasion of Kuwait.

"I believe that it was only the next day... that we decided to freeze the overseas Kuwaiti assets," Kaifu said in a U.S. television interview after being told there was a feeling in the United States that Japan's response had been little and late.

Kaifu, speaking through an interpreter, said Japan's contribution was the largest of the industrialised countries.

Japan has pledged \$2 billion to Jordan, Egypt and Turkey, among the hardest hit by the imposition of economic sanctions against Iraq. Japan has earmarked another \$2 billion for the multinational forces in Saudi Arabia.

He also challenged the perception that Japan joined the multinational effort and increased its contribution only after considerable international pressure.

Kaifu, who was scheduled to meet President George Bush Saturday, earlier Friday pledged his country's help in resolving the crisis, saying that the United States could not be expected to solve world problems alone.

Speaking at New York University where he received an honorary degree, Kaifu said the invasion of Kuwait "cannot

U.S. admiral says Gulf embargo is '100 per cent'

ABOARD USS INDEPENDENCE (AP) — The commander of the American battle group patrolling outside the Gulf said Friday he doubted that ships were evading the United Nations embargo against Iraq by hugging the Iranian coast.

"Personally I feel that we are being 100 per cent effective," said rear Admiral Jerry Unruh. "Iraq may be loading their ships with oil, but their ships are not coming out."

Unruh, who commands a nine-ship battle group from aboard the Independence, refused to confirm that the 79,000-ton carrier was soon to enter the Gulf, as has been reported in recent days.

The Independence, homeported in San Diego, California, was already on station in the

Indian Ocean when Iraq invaded Kuwait on Aug. 2.

It has operated since then in the North Arabian Sea and Gulf of Oman, where its escort vessels are participating in the U.N.-backed international economic blockade against Baghdad.

More than 1,500 ships have been intercepted by American and other warships in the six-week-old effort, mostly in the Red Sea.

About 100 ships have been boarded by inspection teams to check whether they had Iraqi-related cargo.

Shipping sources in the Gulf have suggested further that some vessels might be dodging the embargo by following the Iranian coastline from the Strait of Hormuz to the northern Gulf.

Should that occur, the Independence's force of some 75 air-

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children program
17:10 Football
18:00 News summary
18:10 Local programme
18:20 Programme review
18:30 News in Arabic
18:35 Arabic series
21:30 Programme review
21:45 Local programme
23:00 News summary in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO
17:35 Cartoons
18:10 Show film
19:00 News in French
19:15 Classical music
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Varieties programme
20:00 News in Arabic
21:10 Documentary: "The Four Horsemen"
22:00 News in English
22:30 Thin Air

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swielet Tel. KH7740
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 037785.

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 0374401.

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terra Sancti Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.

Anglican Church Tel. 625303. Tel. 626543.

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.

S. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.

Assumption International Church Tel. 811295.

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 774111.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. KIS117 and 654932.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Some low clouds will appear and a drop in temperatures will occur with a chance of shower rain in the northern parts of the country. Winds will be westerly moderate to fresh. In Aqaba,

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

winds will be southerly moderate and sea calm.

Min/max. temp.

Amman 17 / 26

Aqaba 22 / 35

Deserts 16 / 30

Jordan Valley 21 / 34

Yesterdays high temperatures: Amman 30, Aqaba 34. Humidity readings: Amman 37 per cent, Aqaba 18 per cent.

USEFUL NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Khalid Khouli 1026919

Dr. Wacl Dumanli 774800

Dr. Khalil Abdul Oader 775392

Dr. Abdul Majid Al Shater 791400

Firas pharmacy 625250

Fordows pharmacy 770336

Al Asema pharmacy 637053

Namoukh pharmacy 636752

Al Salam pharmacy 636750

Yacoub pharmacy 644045

Shmeisani pharmacy 637060

IRBD:

Dr. Anwar Obaidat 1-1

Al Sharai's pharmacy (985)338

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MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

British politicians denied entry to Algeria

ALGIERS (AP) — Customs officers denied entry to three British politicians accompanying former President Ahmad Ben Bella on his return from exile, the British embassy reported. The Britons were among 17 people, mostly French and Greek, refused entry when the ship carrying Ben Bella and some 500 journalists and sympathisers docked in Algiers Thursday. A British embassy spokeswoman said the Britons were denied entry because they lacked visas. A new law that took effect April 1 requires nationals of Algeria and Britain to acquire visas prior to visiting the other country. Algerian officials did not allow members of the embassy to meet the Britons before they were packed aboard an overnight ferry for Marseille, France, the spokeswoman said.

French legionnaires arrive in S. Arabia

YANBU (AP) — The first units of the French Foreign Legion arrived in Saudi Arabia Saturday, joining the largest deployment of French forces overseas since Algeria's war of independence. About 150 of the hardened desert force of 2,300 marched off the Ferry le Corse, which docked in this Red Sea port at noon (0900 GMT) after an eight-day trip from Toulon. The bulk of the French ground forces of 4,000 are expected to arrive Sunday at the vast, new industrial complex here. "Heat is our first enemy," said an officer who identified himself as Captain Renard, in charge of the first company of the 2nd Foreign Legion infantry regiment based in Nimes, France.

Italian warship transits Suez Canal

SUEZ (AP) — The Italian frigate Zeffiro transited the Suez Canal Saturday en route to the Gulf, canal officials said. It will join three other Italian military vessels stationed in the region as part of an international armada assembled after Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait. They are the frigates Libeccio and Orsa and the support ship Stromboli. A squadron of eight Tornado fighters that arrived in the United Arab Emirates last Tuesday is providing air cover for the Italian warships. Zeffiro's canal transit coincided with a meeting in Cairo between Italian Defence Minister Virginia Rognoni and his Egyptian counterpart, Yousef Sabri Abu Taleb. The two ministers told reporters they discussed bilateral military cooperation and the Gulf crisis but gave no details. Rognoni, who arrived Friday night, left for Saudi Arabia immediately after the talks.

U.S. deplores Sudanese bombing

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Sudanese government is threatening an international relief effort by bombing towns in rebel-held areas where assistance programmes are in operation, the State Department said Friday. U.S. Ambassador James Cheek has raised the issue with Sudanese President Omar Al Bashir but has received no assurance that the bombing will stop, said deputy spokesman Richard Boucher. "These bombings are a threat to the relief effort in Sudan," he said. "Relief workers cannot operate if their lives are in jeopardy from military action," Boucher said. "It is bitterly ironic that these bombings come at a time when Sudan is undergoing a drought which will make a massive relief effort necessary next year." The combination of drought and civil war eventually is expected to put millions of lives at risk in Sudan, according to independent estimates. A Sept. 20 attack on the town of Bor, Boucher said, occurred while U.N. and international Red Cross relief planes were on the ground in that town.

Pope worries about risk of war

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope John Paul II has warned that the world is on the verge of a war that threatens the future of mankind. John Paul expressed his concern during a mass in St. Peter's Basilica and in a message sent to a meeting of representatives of various religions in the southern Italian city of Bari. During the mass, John Paul said that the risk of war "seems to be hanging over humanity in this moment," clearly referring to the Gulf crisis. "We are all deeply aware that the peaceful coexistence of mankind is at stake, our future is at stake," John Paul said. In the message read in his name at the closing ceremony in Bari, the Pope expressed "deep trepidation" over events in the Gulf.

1,000 more Egyptians off to Saudi Arabia

CAIRO (AP) — About 1,000 soldiers left by ship for Saudi Arabia to join Egyptian units deployed there, military sources said Saturday. They said the soldiers left Friday night from the Mediterranean port Alexandria. The fresh troops will bring to about 12,500 the number of Egyptians in the Saudi force. Additional units, all from the 3rd armoured division, will be sent in the coming week. The source said about 14,000 men. But Mubarak refused to indicate the number may increase. Mubarak refused to confirm reports that Saudi Arabia's King Fahd sent him a letter a few days ago requesting

Home News

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Labour delegations to present view on Gulf crisis

AMMAN (Petra) — Delegations from labour federations in six Arab countries will be soon dispatched on tours of several countries to present the Arab workers view with regard to the Gulf crisis.

The delegations, representing the workers of Jordan, Palestine, Libya, Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco will be visiting Iran, China, the Soviet Union, Belgium, France and Italy with this mission, according to Abdul Halim Khaddam, the Federation of Jordanian Labour Unions secretary-general.

He said that the delegations would advocate the cause of evicting the foreign troops from the Arabian peninsula and settling the dispute within an Arab framework.

Gulf crisis puts transport sector under pressure

By Serene Halasa

AMMAN — The Public Transport Corporation has been having its share of problems due to the recent Gulf crisis, and the immediate need to use a number of its buses to transport the enormous number of evacuees fleeing Iraq and Kuwait, into Jordanian territories.

According to an article in Saturday's Al Ra'i newspaper, 36 buses of the Public Transport Corporation are used in transporting evacuees. "We do not think we will increase the number of buses helping out with the transportation of evacuees," Marwan Khitan, director of Transport and Employment Department told the Jordan Times in a telephone conversation.

"We are participating in the process of transporting evacuees, to help reduce other

problems that might occur if the evacuees are not transported quickly out of the Kingdom, such as increased economic problems, food shortages, health problems," Khitan added.

Although the corporation has a fleet of 300 buses, only 250 buses, including the 36 used for the transport of evacuees, are used daily in the Kingdom. "Our buses are 10 years old, some are as old as 15 years, that is why they need continuous maintenance; about 50 buses a day are sent for maintenance," Khitan said.

Pictures were shown in long lines for buses to take them to their respective locations were shown in Al Ra'i newspaper Monday. "Some inconvenience such as the bus arriving 10 or 15 minutes late, or overcrowded buses have occurred because of the pressure put upon us in helping out

with the evacuees, but this is a temporary emergency, and when things quiet down we will go back to regular business," Khitan said.

Khitan also added that more pressure had been placed on the corporation, especially with the recent Gulf crisis, and with more people relying on public transportation rather than using their cars. "They (the public) figure that by cutting down on using their cars they will cut down on expenses such as gasoline, car insurance, maintenance and so on," Khitan added.

Asked about the intention to buy new buses as published in the Al Ra'i article, Khitan said that the government and other transport officials had been studying the possibility of obtaining new buses but no definite time of purchase or number is known yet.

Symposium reviews water situation in Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — An environmental pollution symposium dealing with 'Water Pollution in Jordan: Causes and Effects' opened at the University of Jordan Saturday with the participation of local, Arab and international experts and representatives of various ministries and universities in Jordan.

A total of 14 working papers, dealing with pollutants contained in waste coming from homes, factories and other sources, as well as economic consequences resulting from the pollution of water in the country, will be reviewed by the delegates at the two-day meeting which was organised by the University of Jordan (Water Research and Study Centre), the Goethe Institute in Amman and the Friedrich-Ebert Stiftung (foundation) in Amman.

Addressing the opening session was university President Mahmoud Al Samra, who said the pollution along with the rapid depletion of natural resources and population explosion, are among the main concerns of the modern world.

Samra said that dumping of industrial waste in the ground, at sea and other places has adversely affected surface and underground water resources and has polluted drinking water.

Goethe Institute Director Henrich Reinstrom voiced appreciation of the University of Jordan's efforts to find means to deal with water pollution in Jordan. The West German government, he said, gives due attention to research and study related to pollution and environment questions in general.

In Baghdad, Hironaka will deliver a petition from women legislators around the world to President Saddam Hussein calling for the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages in Iraq and Kuwait. The petition, in the form of individually signed letters, is endorsed by all forty-six women lawmakers in Japan's Diet, as well as by delegates to the Fifth International Conference of World Women Parliamentarians for Peace, held in Harare, Zimbabwe from September 24-26.

The Japanese parliamentarian arrived in Amman Friday en route to Baghdad.

They pointed out that the increase in population, and urbanisation, the accelerated agricultural development and the rapid establishment of industries had led in the last few decades to increasing water consumption and the production of all types of waste.

Among those attending the meeting was Minister of Agriculture Suleiman Arabyat and several heads of departments.

Japanese legislator heads for Baghdad with call for peace

AMMAN (J.T.) — Mrs. Wakako Hironaka, a member of the Upper House of the Japanese Diet, will travel to Baghdad from Amman today to meet with senior Iraqi officials, possibly including President Saddam Hussein, to appeal for the release of foreign nationals detained there.

In Baghdad, Hironaka will deliver a petition from women legislators around the world to President Saddam Hussein calling for the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages in Iraq and Kuwait. The petition, in the form of individually signed letters, is endorsed by all forty-six women lawmakers in Japan's Diet, as well as by delegates to the Fifth International Conference of World Women Parliamentarians for Peace, held in Harare, Zimbabwe from September 24-26.

Hironaka hopes to bring to bear the force of the international women's network, led by women legislators, as a voice for peaceful resolution of the current crisis.

Speaking in Amman, Hironaka said: "Throughout history, women have been the quiet sufferers of war. We have not had a say in the cause of our own suffering. Women's voices should be represented."



Wakako Hironaka

Hironaka called on women legislators to use their positions to speak out for people across the globe yearning for peace.

Hironaka emphasised that her petition and visit to Iraq are only the first steps toward mobilising women to appeal for peace in the Middle East. She urged women parliamentarians everywhere to take up the initiative and send letters of appeal to the Iraqi Embassy in their home country. "Women comprise half of the world's population," commented Hironaka. "United, we form a powerful chorus for peace in this time of crisis. I believe Saddam Hussein will listen."

Symposium tackles smoking, danger it poses to health

Amman (J.T.) — Health Minister Mohammad Addouni Al Zaben Saturday emphasised the need to find means of protecting non-smokers from the danger of smoke and to enforce a low hanging smoking in all public places like public transport, restaurants, clubs and cinemas.

Addressing the opening session of a symposium organised by the Anti-Smoking Arab Society (ASAS) the minister said that the danger of smoking was posed to all sectors of society in Jordan and "it is time for drastic measures to be taken to deal with this danger and to protect the non-smokers from it."

In January 1988 the health minister said that the 1977 law banning smoking in public places would be enforced and fines would be imposed on the violators. It was also announced that Jordan would continue to observe April 7 as a non-smoking day, as called for by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Former health minister and ASAS President Zahair Malhas said the 1977 law was enforced in Jordan to protect non-smokers from the danger of cigarette smoke, responsible for many diseases, among which cancer. "Despite the society's endeavours to fight smoking it has not yet succeeded in spreading sufficient

awareness among members of the public as to the real danger of this bad habit," said Malhas.

He said that smoking "does not affect the body alone but it has adverse social and economic effects on the society."

Delegates representing various

ministries, Jordanian universities

and other concerned departments

discussed several topics related to

smoking and its danger, the

planting of tobacco in Jordan, the

dangerous effects of smoking on

the foetus, the role of police

officials, in combatting smoking

and different ways to fight the

habit of smoking.

The participants called for ban-

ning teachers at schools and uni-

versities from smoking at their

places of work, in front of their

students.

On the eve of the symposium the society issued a call to all Arab smokers to refrain from smoking American-made cigarettes, to give up the habit altogether and to contribute the saved money to the children of Iraq and those of Palestine now involved in an uprising against the Israeli occupation.

WHO and ASAS co-sponsored a three-day conference on smoking in September last year, urging government and organisations to do all they can to fight smoking.

Wedding tragedy

By Elia Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The death toll from a wedding tragedy which occurred in the northern town of Ramtha Friday rose to 13 Saturday with the death of bride-Yasmin Diabat, according to Ramtha government hospital Director Farouk Dibajeh.

He said that the bride, Yasmin Diabat, died at Princess Basma Hospital in Irbid where she had been transferred for intensive care after arriving at the Ramtha hospital in serious condition.

Dibajeh told the Jordan Times that a total of 19 persons had been brought to hospital on Friday afternoon, 12 were found to have died instantly after drowning in the cesspool and swallowing waste water while seven were found suffering from various injuries.

According to Dibajeh, the seven were offered immediate medical attention and were discharged Saturday — all were

described to be in good condition.

The incident occurred during the wedding of two brothers Ibrahim and Ahmad Awad Tarini, with men and women rejoicing over the happy occasion by dancing and singing in two separate rooms.

According to eyewitnesses, the floor of the room where the two brides and the women were gathered suddenly collapsed onto a cesspool which lay underneath the building, instantly killing 11 women including one of the brides and an 11-year-old child Kafa Mohammad Diabat.

Civil Defence Department was alerted and rescue men rushed to the scene of the incident only to pull out 12 dead bodies and seven injured men and women, according to Dr. Dibajeh.

Dr. Dibajeh said that the rush of the local people towards the hospital and the scene of the incident made it rather difficult for rescue men and doctors to carry out their duty.

Iraq says no denial of food

(Continued from page 1)

or with royal air force fighter units are already in the Gulf.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has issued a political testament calling for massive retaliation against Israel, Saudi Arabia and the U.S. in the event of his death, a Dutch radio station reported Friday.

"We have not yet decided on a military solution. We still have a few weeks after which we will take a decision in the light of the situation."

Britain is part of a U.S.-dominated multinational force sent to the Gulf.

Hurd gave the interview at the United Nations after talks on Friday between European Community foreign ministers and foreign ministers from the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

"If there is any aggression against Arab or other forces in the Gulf today or tomorrow, or if there is any provocation, it will be faced with force," Hurd told the newspaper.

Up to 9,000 British ground forces bound for the Gulf with 120 Challenger tanks and mass of other weaponry have begun establishing at sea ports and airports in Britain and Germany. Another 3,000 British armed service personnel aboard ships

King Hussein wishes success to World Summit for Children

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday sent a message to James Grant, executive director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in New York, in reply to a message in which the UNICEF chief voiced his regret over the King's absence from the World Summit for Children held at the U.N. headquarters in New York.

"Nothing would have given me greater pleasure and pride than to have been with you at the summit, and among all those others who have contributed their best efforts to make the summit a success, and who, through true dedication to the worthiest of objectives, have seen to it that an earlier vision grew into the present reality," the King said in his reply.

"I am touched by the recognition of Jordan's efforts and successes referred to as a model achievement in 'child Survival Development Revolution': that since 1960, Jordan has been one of the outstanding half-dozen countries in the world to have cut the infant mortality rate, which has been reduced from 75 to 30 per thousand births since 1980.

"That in the area of immunisation, Jordan has immunised 90 per cent of our under-ones; that we reached the 1990 universal immunisation goal in 1988, and that

we are in the forefront of the control of diarrhoeal diseases, and that in the summer 1988 campaign case fatality rate was reduced by half. That Jordan's programme was one of three country case examples chosen to represent the Arab region at the March 1990 World Education Conference in Thailand, and that additionally remarkable, primary school gender balance has been achieved in Jordan, where 48 per cent of upper-grade students are girls," said the King.

"We pray for God's blessings and greater cooperation amongst us all to secure for all the world's children their equal rights in a brighter tomorrow. My consolation, under the circumstances, is that Her Majesty Queen Noor, who has been totally committed from the outset to our cause and has always contributed to our achievements in Jordan, will be with you at this time. I look forward to receiving from her the expected and anticipated news of a most successful summit and an important landmark in the worthiest cause of our human endeavours," the King concluded.

Children's plight, UNICEF's efforts in focus at New York summit

AMMAN (J.T.) — Forty thousand children die everyday in the world, 25,000 usually because of preventable diseases, according to Nigel Fisher, deputy regional director and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) representative in Jordan.

Fisher expressed concern that the Gulf crisis might leave adverse effects on the efforts designed to provide assistance and care to families and children.

He said UNICEF was doing all it can to provide assistance to the evacuees in Jordan and help them be repatriated.

Fisher voiced UNICEF's appreciation of Jordan's efforts to alleviate the sufferings of the expatriates in cooperation with world organisations.

According to UNICEF, which is sponsoring the summit in New York, the overall aim of the meeting is to put children high and strong on the agenda of the 1990s, giving them priority over the world's resources in good times or bad times, in war or peace.

The programme coincides with the opening at the U.N. headquarters in New York of the World Summit for Children attended by some 70 world leaders and delegates.

The event provides a unique and unprecedented opportunity for world leaders to discuss children issues and look into means

to safeguard their well-being. The World Summit for Children, designed to mobilise world leaders' support for measures that should be taken to provide protection to the children of the world.

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It said that the world summit comes at a time when at the outset of the last decade of the

20th century great changes are in the air. It said that the decline in superpower confrontation could mean that, for the first time in more than half a century, nations will be able to turn from hostilities to concentrating on making the world a better place to live in.

The Jordanian delegation to the summit is headed by Her Majesty Queen Noor.

To coincide with the opening of the summit, the voluntary and charitable societies in Jordan sent UNICEF's Executive Director in New York James Grant a message, paying tribute to his personal endeavours and expressing admiration and respect for the organisation's notable achievements.

Following are excerpts from the message:

We salute your own endeavours in shaping a more developed and humane world in which the dignity and prosperity of women and children are safeguarded; and we look with admiration and respect to UNICEF's notable achievements towards the physical and psychological well-being of our women and children, and those of other neighbouring countries.

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AMMAN - JORDAN

OR BY A REGISTERED MAIL ADDRESSED TO:-
THE SECRETARY OF LIQUIDATION COMMITTEE
P.O.BOX : 6854
AMMAN - JORDAN

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Picking up the pieces

THE FRENCH peace initiative presented to the General Assembly by President Francois Mitterrand on Sept. 24 was welcomed as positive not only by Iraq, Jordan and other parties. The U.S., the Soviet Union and the European Community also detected constructive elements in it that should be pursued, albeit to different degrees.

Yesterday's visit to Amman by Iraqi Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz to deliver a message to His Majesty King Hussein from Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has to be seen as an important link to the political momentum generated by that initiative as well as the Rabat ministerial effort to find an Arab context for a Gulf solution.

Although only scant information has been disclosed about the Moroccan-Algerian-Jordanian peace ideas touted in Rabat, they nevertheless do not appear to be in conflict with the French peace thoughts. On the contrary the two peace initiatives appear to be complementary to one another.

As the Soviet Union and some other Western countries are already on record as supporting the French ideas for peace in the Gulf and the U.S. has expressed guarded optimism about it, other parties, notably Saudi Arabia and Egypt, remain conspicuously absent from this effort. If the absences prefer a belligerent approach to Baghdad in a way that rules out a peaceful resolution of the Gulf crisis, it is their business. There are some countries directly connected with the conflict which have developed a vested interest in the military option and have linked their well-being and self-interest with war rather than peace in the Gulf. President Mitterrand, however, came forward to change the mood of the hysterical world, especially the West, by offering peace a genuine chance in the region. By so doing, France has demonstrated once again that it is listening to the voice of reason and as such deserves understanding and respect.

What is needed now is to pick up the pieces and give the embryonic peace process in the Gulf a chance to develop before it is strangled to death by war obsessed countries. The only operational peace proposal is the only one that offers a basis for dialogue and negotiations between the antagonists. The French proposal takes the front seat in the peace endeavours. The extraordinary communiqué issued by the Soviet Union and the EC countries Wednesday contains an implied endorsement of the French ideas and a departure from Washington's insistence on shooting it's way in the Gulf conflict. By highlighting the need to pursue a peaceful settlement of the Kuwaiti situation and establishing a link between the crisis with the other pressing conflicts of the Middle East, be they in Palestine or Lebanon, Moscow and the West European capitals have come a long way to understand the Arab anxieties and concerns.

The only missing link in the French peace initiative is the absence of a genuine U.S. support for it and the minute that happens the world can heave a sigh of relief.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Despite Washington's outright rejection of Iraq's initiative for the world to work out solutions for all problems in the Middle East, we are witnessing a gradual move on the part of the world community to convene an international conference to achieve that goal, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Saturday. The World Council of Churches and the Chinese delegate to the U.N. General Assembly were the latest callers for such a conference, echoing the views of the Europeans and the Soviet Union, said Al Ra'i.

Furthermore, the past few days heard and saw the French prime minister calling the world's attention to the fact that the Palestine problem had not received world-wide attention as did the Gulf crisis, although several Security Council resolutions were issued concerning the Arab-Israeli conflict, the paper noted. It said that we now hear voices from the Soviet military and the United States warning against an outbreak of military conflict in the Gulf which would cause untold devastation and losses to mankind. However, the realisation of the magnitude of the catastrophe awaiting the world should war break out, can by no means bring about the required change in positions and attain peace, because the world wishes to see practical steps taken to achieve this aspiration and brave steps on the part of all parties to establish real peace, said the paper.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily questions Jordan's favourable response to the U.N. Security Council resolutions which, he says, are in fact United States decisions. Why should we respond favourably to the whims of the United States which obviously is dictating its terms to the world through the Security Council, said Tareq Misarweh. He says that Washington has been raising funds from various nations to finance its adventure in the Gulf region, but sure enough not a single penny will find its way to Jordan unless this country bows to the will of the U.S. master and kisses the bands of Bander Ben Sultan, the writer notes. Even the Security Council resolutions are twisted to suit the interests of the Western powers specially when it comes to the repatriation of the Western nationals in Iraq and the sending of food and medicine, the writer adds. Indeed, he says, we should say that we do not respect U.N. resolutions as long as Israel pursues its atrocities in the occupied Arab lands and continues to massacre Palestinians and maintains its occupation of Palestine, Lebanon and the Golan Heights.

Al Dastour described recent statements by leaders in the West and East about the danger awaiting the world from a military conflict in the Gulf as a return to reason. Should a conflict break out, Iran will be aligning itself with Iraq and a third world war could be triggered said the Chief of staff of the Soviet armed forces, and French leaders have been drawing attention to the need of solving all the problems in the Middle East if the region and the world at large are to enjoy peace, said the paper.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

Gulf standoff requires economic adjustment

THOSE who wait for surprises and fast developments in the Gulf crisis may have to wait for long time. Two months on, and the U.S. did not use its "option" to "liberate" Kuwait by war, and reinstate the 60-billion-dollar emir to his throne. America is yet to complete its military buildup while waiting for the temperature to drop in the area so that its soldiers will not be grilled like shrimp before facing any of the one million Iraqi troops, including over 350,000 of university degree holders that are waiting for them in defence of Arab dignity.

In October, America will wait until after the mid-term elections of state and congressional elections. After the elections, they will wait until after the Christmas and New Year eve, to avoid converting this happy occasion into mourning over American bodies flown back in bags and wooden boxes, covered by the stripes and stars.

In January, America will decide that the economic sanctions against Iraq have started bite, and that those sanctions should be given a chance to bring Iraq down on its knees. In that case, the U.S. hopes, Iraq may deliver Kuwait on a silver plate, in return for allowing food, medicine and air to reach the children, women and the rest of the population of Iraq.

This is to show that the Gulf crisis is not a short term one.

The enormous losses expected to result from a shooting war will prevent the unthinkable from happening. Therefore, Jordan has to start immediately to re-arrange its own affairs on the understanding that the crisis is not a passing phenomenon. It has created new facts on ground that are not reversible in any way, irrespective of the outcome of the crisis or even the war.

On the defence side, we have to prepare the people in the villages, towns and badia for the worst possibilities, such as an Israeli aggression. Nothing will dissuade Israel from venturing into Jordan, better than the knowledge of the nature of resistance its forces will meet from the Jordanian army

and population. We should be able, through facts, to convince Israel that its occupation of southern Lebanon was a picnic in comparison to what we have prepared for it in case of aggression.

On the economic front we have to reconsider and alter the economic adjustment programme, which was put into effect one year and a half ago. The circumstances and expectations have now changed radically that the adjustment programme itself needs to be adjusted in many ways.

The degree of austerity and the reduction of public and private expenditure in accordance with the programme are no more sufficient under the current set of circumstances.

Jordan cannot be a net transfer of funds to any creditor until the crisis is over.

Finally, the government should rise to the challenge and take measures to put our economic life in order, whether in pricing or distribution of commodities including fuel, or towards more food sufficiency, or finding either alternative markets for what we produce or producing alternative products for our markets.

The worst course of action the Jordanian government may take is to do nothing, and continue to wait for pleasant surprises to save us for compensations that may prove to be a trick used to soften our position and tempt us to fall in line and join the devil's camp.

We have to impose on ourselves tougher measures than the IMF imposed in early 1989.

The government lenders in the Club of Paris, and the commercial banks in the Club of London, should be notified that Jordan's commitment to pay interest or principal on their debts has become practically impossible to honour. What we may earn in foreign exchange should go first to satisfy the basic needs of the people. From now on, settlement of debt should be confined to funds and institutions which continue to extend to Jordan financial facilities in excess of what may fall due in their favour. In other words

Kuwait," Beaver said.

"U.S. ground forces are not strong enough," Duncan said, and it will be at least a month before enough tanks to face the Iraqis arrive in Saudi Arabia.

"The world alliance... will not even be prepared for a military action until sometime in November," said Alpher.

The ideal option for U.S.-led forces would be to wait for Iraq to make the first move and respond, which would be more popular in the West, and especially in the Arab World, analysts said.

"But I don't think it will be a prerequisite for U.S. and allied action," Alpher said.

Israel and Arab terrorists remain wild cards, the analysts said.

"The best war for Saddam Hussein to split the allied forces is to get Israel involved in some way, which he was been doing," Beaver said.

Alpher said that if a terrorist organisation carried out an atrocity against Israel or Egypt, there would be no way of knowing whether Iraq was behind it.

That attack could trigger a war, he said.

"I think the danger is to underestimate Saddam Hussein, to believe he will be a fool," Moisi said. "He has not been a fool far."

War more likely as Iraq driven into corner

By Edith M. Lederer
The Associated Press

LONDON — The likelihood of a Gulf war has grown significantly as sanctions and international condemnation push Iraq into a corner with no diplomatic escape, European and Israeli military analysts say.

But there is still a chance for peace because the sanctions are only beginning to bite and U.S.-led forces in Saudi Arabia aren't yet strong enough to launch a military operation against Iraq's occupation of Kuwait, the analysts say.

"I think another six to eight weeks is available to prevent a conflict but after that it becomes almost inevitable," said Paul Beaver, publisher of Jane's Defence Weekly.

With the United Nations demanding an unconditional Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and Iraq reiterating almost daily that it will never leave, the analysts see little room for a negotiated solution.

"Saddam Hussein could well now be driven into a corner which makes negotiations difficult and we could see a situation where he is left with very few options, and those all being of a military nature," Beaver said in an interview.

Dominique Moisi, deputy director of the French Institute for International Relations in

Paris, said he would "love to see a diplomatic option" but "it would mean that ... Saddam Hussein gives in to Western pressure and it's rather unlikely."

A compromise is still possible, he said, in which Iraq would withdraw in return for agreement to hold an international conference to redefine Kuwait's boundaries, give Iraq access to the sea and redistribute Kuwaiti oil reserves.

"But I do not see it in the cards right now," Moisi said. "Maybe in the very beginning a diplomatic option might have been open. Now it's a bit late."

Joseph Alpher, deputy head of the Jaffee Centre for Strategic Studies at Tel Aviv University, said even though chances for a political solution are diminishing, "as long as bullets are not flying there is still a diplomatic option."

"If Saddam assesses that tomorrow the United States is going to launch a military attack on him, he still has the option to offer a compromise or unilateral withdrawal," Alpher said.

"He needs a 'face-saver,'" Beaver said. "If he isn't given some sort of option, then conflict is inevitable."

But Beaver said the rest of the world has to be assured that Saddam doesn't have the potential to strike again or

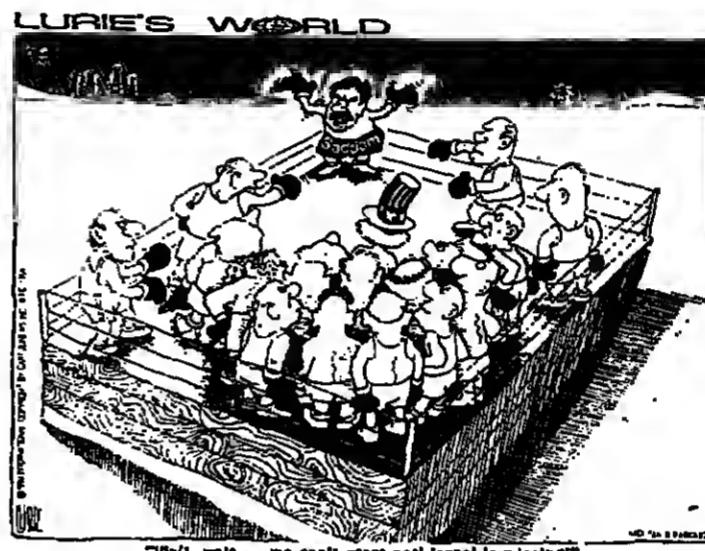
continue development of nuclear and chemical weapons.

Both sides still think time is on their side, analysts said.

"Saddam believes if he sits there long enough the Americans will go away because of congressional elections (in November) and pressure on the budget, and the Americans believe sooner or later he'll capitulate," Beaver said.

Alpher said time is on the side of the unprecedented international alliance that is gaining strength at the expense of Iraq's military-strategic position.

But Ian Anthony, a researcher at the Stockholm Peace



United Germany seen challenging U.S. leadership

By Carol Giacomo
Reuter

RAHWASINGH — The shifting balance in relations between the United States and the newly confident, soon-to-be unified Germany has already yielded some changes — and more appear to be inevitable.

Germany is asserting itself in world affairs, politically as well as economically. It is challenging the United States in fact if not intent, as the voice of the Western democracies.

Bush administration officials say unification may sometimes mean testier relations between Bonn and Washington. One area of tension may be the removal of nuclear weapons from German territory.

But they also expect the United States to maintain its leading edge in the NATO alliance and in world politics.

"The United States has become a balancer of interests. Other countries look to us to balance the interests of the group," said one State Department official.

This includes acting as a counterweight — perhaps the only convincing counterweight — to a resurgent German power feared by many Europeans, analysts say.

The changing nature of the relationship can be seen vividly in the current Gulf crisis. The United States, with a commitment of more than 150,000 troops, is the vanguard of the international campaign against Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. Secretary of State James Baker has asserted that this proves the error of those who argue the United States is declining as a world power.

But faced with a huge U.S. budget deficit that underscores a weakening economy, the Bush administration has been forced to ask its allies, including West Germany, to help foot the bill.

"Much like the Soviet Union, we're more a superpower in

military might than any other sense," said NATO expert Daniel Nelson of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

The Bush administration was instrumental in the successful "two plus four" talks produced the treaty by which the four World War II victors — the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain and France — gave up rights and responsibilities over Germany.

Germany will be a full partner like Britain and France and that means we lose a certain amount of influence and control," one U.S. official said.

Unification is pushing Soviet troops out of central Europe and "it will be just a matter of time before the German population tells the United States, 'we don't want you either,'" Nelson said.

He also predicted an eventual push for the removal of all American nuclear weapons from Germany.

But U.S. officials are relatively confident Germany will decide it must stay within NATO's nuclear umbrella and hence bear the burden of nuclear arms.

The unification discussions highlighted growing new ties between Moscow and Bonn, cemented by Germany's pledge of billions of dollars to support departing Soviet troops.

U.S. officials do not seem to fear this axis.

"As much as the Soviet want Germany to pay, they also want Americans to invest in their country because they are scared to death of dependency on Germany," one official said.

"There is a danger the Germans will overplay their hand" in believing that in the Soviet Union all things are for sale, he added.

"One thing the Germans don't have and the Soviets respect is military might" he said, adding that Moscow, in the unification talks, made sure German military capability would be strictly limited.

White Germany now is preoccupied with unification and its enormous cost, administration officials are convinced Bonn can absorb the expense and quickly adapt to expectations that it will play a greater world diplomatic role.

Before, West Germany could look to the allies to make tough choices but the newly unified country "will have to take responsibility for all kinds of decisions," one official said.

"Germany will be a full partner like Britain and France and that means we lose a certain amount of influence and control," one U.S. official said.

Unification is pushing Soviet troops out of central Europe and "it will be just a matter of time before the German population tells the United States, 'we don't want you either,'" Nelson said.

He also predicted an eventual push for the removal of all American nuclear weapons from Germany.

But U.S. officials are relatively confident Germany will decide it must stay within NATO's nuclear umbrella and hence bear the burden of nuclear arms.

The unification discussions highlighted growing new ties between Moscow and Bonn, cemented by Germany's pledge of billions of dollars to support departing Soviet troops.

U.S. officials do not seem to

fear this axis.

"As much as the Soviet want Germany to pay, they also want Americans to invest in their country because they are scared to death of dependency on Germany," one official said.

"There is a danger the Germans will overplay their hand" in believing that in the Soviet Union all things are for sale, he added.

"One thing the Germans don't have and the Soviets respect is military might" he said, adding that Moscow, in the unification talks, made sure German military capability would be strictly limited.

During the Iran-Iraq war, U.N. investigating teams that visited Iran found traces of Tabun, believed to have been fired by Iraqi warheads, said Dr. Lundin. Sarin and Tabun both deadly nerve gases. Iraq may also have a third type of nerve gas, VX, which lingers on the ground for longer than the other two, said the Swedish scientist.

According to Dr. Lundin, the two binary weapons produced by Iraq are probably Tabun and Sarin, both deadly nerve gases.

Features

Muslim leaders support family planning efforts

By Jon Miller

JAKARTA — Organisers of an ambitious family planning programme have taken the unlikely step of enlisting the support of Indonesia's Muslim community in their battle to convince parents to use birth control. The project, run by the Indonesian government, aims to drive home the message that "family welfare and family planning are two sides of the same coin," says Abdillah Syarwani, director of Indonesia's Planned Parenthood Association and himself a devout Muslim.

"That message was not welcome in many conservative neighbourhoods in Indonesia, the fifth most populous nation on earth and the one with the largest Muslim community, until the head man at the local mosque decided there was no conflict between family planning and the teachings of Islam."

"It used to be that women would have to sneak around, taking pills and shots without telling anybody," recalls Tjeje Sukiatna, a 45-year-old native of Kuitang village, a downtown slum neighbourhood in the sprawling city of Jakarta. Sukiatna already had four children by the time she learned about family planning, in the mid-1970s. "But today we even talk about family planning during our prayers," she says. "Nearly all the couples in the neighbourhood are practising it."

Sukiatna's Muslim women's group has been instrumental in spreading the word about family planning in Kuitang village. And, she says, the change in the neighbourhood has been striking: better-fed and better-dressed children, less noise, less sense of hopelessness. "The advantages are so obvious," she reports. "Most people don't need encouragement any more. They are spacing their births."

The change in Kuitang village follows a pattern that has been repeated in countless neighbourhoods across this tropical archipelago made up of thousands of islands. By winning over local Muslim leaders, advocates of family planning in Indonesia have turned organised religion — an impediment to family planning efforts in some countries — into a staunch ally. Today, largely as a result of this alliance, Indonesia's population programme is widely considered to be the most effective in the developing world. About half of all Indonesian married couples use birth control measures. The annual population growth rate has dropped from around 2.5 per cent in the early 1970s to 1.9 per cent this year, and officials expect the rate to continue falling in the 1990s.

Such results contrast sharply with the neighbouring Philippines, where the Roman Catholic Church has resisted family planning efforts and the population continues to grow at an annual rate of more than 2.4 per cent.

With 188 million people, about 90 per cent of whom are Muslim, Indonesia was concerned that population pressure would wipe out the hard-won gains of economic development. Although the overall population density is not high, nearly two thirds of all Indonesians live on the island of Java, which makes up less than 7 per cent of the nation's land area.

Efforts to relocate Javanese to less developed outer islands have been going on for decades, but with little success. Partly because of this failure, the Indonesian government launched its family planning programme in the early 1970s, at a time when fears of a population explosion were prompting other countries in the region to set up their own projects.

The Indonesian programme, which enjoys the strong support of President Suharto, was designed and managed not by bureaucrats but by enthusiastic young planners. It soon became clear, however, that its success or failure depended almost entirely on the cooperation of local religious leaders called *ulamas*.

"In Indonesia, if you want to launch any kind of programme, you have to consider what will be the perception of the Muslim leaders," explains Rismay Musa, a communications expert with the National Family Planning Coordinating Board. "That's very basic. These are powerful people, and whatever they say their followers will do."

But enlisting the support of those leaders was no easy task. The Muslim establishment is highly decentralised, with little national or regional hierarchy. Influential national religious organisations do exist, but they operate on a consensus basis and their decisions are not binding on local leaders. Unlike in the Middle East, there is no "imam" or national spiritual leader whose opinions become law at a local level.

In the Roman Catholic Philippines — whose government also set up an ambitious family planning programme in the early 1970s — church leaders have exerted their influence, stalling the programme's implementation and pressing for more emphasis on so-called natural family planning, a method of birth control that requires considerable education and training for users.

The Indonesian programme designers knew they would have to confront the religious issue, but they were not sure what that might entail. Meeting with suspicion and resistance in the beginning, they decided to seek the help of national organisations such as Nahdlatul Ulama (NU), a conservative group of Islamic scholars with wide influence in Java.

"We gave a presentation, telling them what family planning is, what are its purposes, what are its goals," recalls Musa. "And the *ulamas* talked with their friends. They consulted the 'holy book,' they consulted the prophecies. In the end, we were lucky: They decided that the idea of family planning was OK."

Abdullah Wahid, who has been president of NU since 1984, agrees the 1975 decision was a turning point. "The *ulamas* declared that the idea of family planning itself is right according to Islam, to preserve the quality of life, to improve the standard of living and to improve the service of the state towards the people," he says. "It is clear from the holy Koran that you need to plan. Otherwise it will be impossible to anticipate the needs of the family."

Major concerns included stipulations that there should be no abortion and no irreversible sterilisation. There was also resistance to intra-uterine device (IUDs), which the Islamic leaders considered a violation of a couple's privacy. The *ulamas* have since softened their position on IUDs, and they have not fought sterilisation techniques that can be surgically reversed. Abortion was, and remains illegal.

There is no doubt that the need to accommodate the religious leaders has shaped Indonesia's

family planning programme. Some observers believe the government's refusal to institute sex education in the schools, along with its unwillingness to open its contraceptives distribution programme to adolescents and unmarried couples, reflects a fear of angering the *ulamas*. Rismay Musa admits there have been compromises.

But if the *ulamas* have been influential, they have also been essential. From the outset government workers learned it was futile to go into communities and preach that family planning is consistent with Islamic law. So, before setting up a clinic or an office, they would ask the local *ulama* to meet with his followers and assure them of his support. Where an *ulama* was reluctant, the family planning staff would call in sympathetic *ulamas* from other areas to apply pressure.

This strategy worked, especially in Java, where communications are relatively good and communities are well organised. But by the 1980s, some areas, such as the conservative Muslim city of Aceh on the western island of Sumatra, were lagging. "Aceh is like Lebanon, like Jerusalem," Musa says. "It's very tough. For almost 10 years we tried our programme there, but it was failing behind the other provinces. So we tried a different strategy. We invited all the eminent *ulamas* in Aceh to Java. We gave them air tickets, accommodation, everything. And we let them talk with the Javanese *ulamas* about the work they were doing with family planning."

"Then we brought them to East Java, which is also strongly Muslim but where family planning is very successful. They had



SMALL IS BEAUTIFUL: With the battle against overpopulation for a better lifestyle behind religious leaders, Indonesia is winning the war for all.

about two weeks to discuss and observe, to talk to people. And at the end of the trip, they came to the decision, without any interference by us, that family planning was something they had to support. Since then," he says, "the improvement in family planning in Aceh has been tremendous."

The Aceh experience led government policymakers to choose that city for a national seminar, held earlier this year, on increasing the *ulamas' role in family planning.*

That seminar dovetailed with an international conference on Islam and population

policy, also held in Aceh and attended by representatives from 39 countries. Both the seminar and the conference concluded by issuing strong statements supporting vigorous family planning efforts in Indonesia and other developing countries.

Musa, who holds a degree in comparative religion and another in communication, says many Indonesian Muslims now believe that family planning is not merely compatible with religious law but actually advances the goals of Islam. "Mohammad said you have to marry and have children, but he also said that God can't

change your life without your effort. We are the ones to decide whether we have one or two or three or five children. If we want to improve the quality of our lives, it's dependent on us. It's not a gift of God," he says.

"So now the *ulamas* talk everywhere about family planning. They say it is not against our religion, because our religion is for the welfare, the happiness and the prosperity of our people. And they see, of course, that this is also the goal of family planning. The *ulamas* are practically running the programme by themselves" — World News Link.

The UFO welcome mat is in Wisconsin

By Peter Maller
Reuter

ELMWOOD, Wisconsin — This small town in western Wisconsin doesn't have many parking places, and there is no motel. But the welcome mat is always out for visitors from space.

Elmwood, with a population of 1,009, has turned waiting for alien visits into all-year business. "It all began 15 years ago when George Wheeler, described by friends as a no-nonsense policeman, reported that he had been attacked by a blue light from a large ball of flame that hovered over his squad car at the village quarry.

Eight years ago, 76-year-old Hobbs Wilson said he had seen a UFO 10 kilometres from town.

"It was six to seven metres long, made no noise and it lit up the barnyard," he tells visitors.

"Where did it get the power to

light up like that? I don't know."

More recently area businessman Tom Weber got international attention when he tried to raise \$50 million to build a landing strip for aliens.

He envisioned it beaming welcoming lights towards space to entice wandering craft down for a friendly landing and perhaps a cup of coffee.

That project flopped for lack of money.

While other small towns across America have their pumpkin festivals or cucumber festival or its potato festival, we decided to have a UFO festival because we've had a lot of sightings," said Caroline Schoeder, an organiser of the event.

The continuing sale of inflatable space ships, T-shirts, caps, mugs, ashtrays, badges, bumper stickers and other products has become something of a cottage industry.

"Every town around here seems to have its strawberry festival or its cucumber festival or its potato festival, so we decided to have a UFO festival because we've had a lot of sightings," said Caroline Schoeder, an organiser of the event.

The most recent attracted 2,000 tourists, some dressed like Hollywood-issue aliens.

They watched parades, danced in the street, rode carnival rides, ate UFO burgers (topped with melted cheese and sauerkraut) and saw the crowning of a UFO queen.

The six finalists in that last event were asked by the judges to explain why UFOs are attracted to Elmwood.

"It might be because they want to study a rural culture, and this is a very rural culture," said 17-year-old Kathryn Raasch.

Children chased through the streets gathering 500 paper plates dropped from an airplane. The imitation flying saucers were redeemable for prizes ranging from five to 75 cents.

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"We usually try to donate about \$3,000 a year to the community," said Sharon Weber, who did a brisk business at a concession stand run by the Elmwood Area Community Club, a charitable organisation.

Profits from the sale of UFO paraphernalia have paid for an air conditioning system in a community auditorium and for Christmas decorations in the downtown district, she said.

However, for the true UFO aficionado wanting to meet alien beings, Elmwood may be a disappointment.

Rusty Paar, 23, drove in from La Crosse, Wisconsin, clutching a photocopied document that he said outlined a government cover-up of UFO landings. But he found few people who took the matter as seriously.

"This whole event just looks like a bunch of people looking for an excuse to party," he said.

New Yorker hits its stride as magazine industry stumbles

By Samuel Fromartz
Reuter

NEW YORK — The New Yorker magazine, which has captivated its public for three generations, is winning new readers as the U.S. magazine industry enters its worst recession in years.

Other magazines that reach far wider audiences than the New Yorker have watched advertising pages slip away as companies cut back on spending.

But the 65-year-old weekly — which features long, in-depth pieces of journalism and short fiction and poetry interspersed with quirky cartoons — has actually seen more readers flock to its pages, with advertisers gaily following along.

"The industry is not particularly healthy this year, and the New Yorker was up 7.5 per cent in ad pages in the first quarter and about five per cent for the first half. It's very gratifying, but it's also, 'oh boy, we're out there alone,'" said Steven Florio, chief executive of the New Yorker.

When the magazine was bought five years ago by S.I. Newhouse Jr.'s Advance Publications, the largest privately-owned U.S. magazine publisher, long-time readers feared the New Yorker would be forever changed.

Newhouse owns slick publications such as Vogue, Gentleman's Quarterly and Vanity Fair and sceptics thought he would justify his \$168 million investment in the New Yorker by changing it to boost advertising revenues.

Within a month of purchasing the company, Newhouse brought in Florio to run the company — and coming from a men's fashion magazine was not exactly a prime credential in the New Yorker set.

"Everyone was asking, 'what's he going to do? what's he going to do?' The rumour mill was just extraordinary," Florio said.

He began by reworking the business side of the magazine, accepting credit card payments for subscriptions and instituting a direct mail campaign.

He also sold off various companies the New Yorker owned and let go about 40 business staff members, some of whom had spent virtually their entire careers at the company.

While more aggressive selling techniques, like big advertising packages, made some purists bristle, the new owners were careful not to tinker too much with the editorial content of the magazine, as that was its heart.

The New Yorker differs from many publications by its loyal readership — it has one of the highest subscription renewal rates in the industry — and its

notable place in the New York publishing community.

It wasn't until 1987, however, that Newhouse firmly stamped his mark on the magazine by bringing in Robert Gottlieb, editor of book publisher Alfred A. Knopf, to replace William Shawn, a venerable figure in journalism who edited the New Yorker for 35 years.

Despite his credentials, Gottlieb's surprise appointment alienated many on the editorial staff, who viewed him as an outsider and thought Shawn was treated poorly.

"We were reading about ourselves in the press everyday — that I was going to get rid of Gottlieb and then Newhouse was going to get rid of me," Florio recalled. "But I kept saying to Bob, 'let's just keep doing what we've been doing. Newhouse will be forever changed.'

Finally, advertisers began to return to the magazine in 1989 and circulation started to increase. The magazine now reaches more than 630,000 readers — the highest in its history.

It managed the comeback without altering what it has always done best: catering to people who enjoy long, unadorned articles in an age when television and the quick-read dominate media.

"The most striking aspect of the magazine has been its attempt to establish some standard of conscience for journalism. We were doing that 50 years ago and we continue to do so today," said Brendan Gill, a staff writer at the magazine for more than half a century.

Among other changes, the "Going on About Town" section in the front of the magazine, offering listings of a wide variety of New York entertainment events, added graphics and short profiles.

Younger writers and cartoonists were hired, complementing the staff who have long worked at the magazine.

Last year, the New Yorker won its first national magazine awards in 11 years in the categories of fiction and reporting. It won two more awards this year.

But while the comeback has been a vindication of sorts for those who own and run the New Yorker, things are much the same for the staff.

Asked how the staff viewed the resurgence in readers, Gill said: "Honestly, almost mysteriously, it hasn't crossed the minds of editorial. I don't think anybody in 50 years has ever talked to me about circulation. We show a genuine lack of interest because it's always been a magazine where we wrote for each other."

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Underdogs bite back at Asian Games

China's medal drive slows

PEKING (AP) — Japan's Munehiro Kaneko seized the title of Asia's top all-round athlete Saturday, and Gulf states runners and South Korean shooters also helped slice into China's gold medal monopoly at the Asian Games.

For the first time in the week-old games, China won less than half of the day's golds.

Past quadruple gold medallist P.T. Usha of India missed out on her second chance for a gold here as China ran away from the Indians in the women's 1,600-metre relay, breaking India's games record.

But overall, China picked up just 10 of the day's 24 golds — four in shooting, two in judo, and one each in track and field, cycling, men's sabre team fencing and the Chinese martial art of Wushu, making its debut to these games.

That boosted its gold total to 111, to 24 for Japan, 23 for South Korea and nine for North Korea. The Chinese had 197 medals in all, followed by Japan's 117, South Korea's 86 and North Korea's 51.

Japan and South Korea each won five golds Saturday. Japan had two in track and field, two in cycling and one in judo. South Korea won three in shooting and one each in judo and weightlifting.

Kaneko broke the 8-year-old games record of 7,417 points with a 7,799 total in the decathlon, a two-day contest in running, jumping, pole vaulting and hurling the shot put, discus and javelin.

Taiwan's Guo Jin-Shoei was second with 7,623 and China's Gong Goohua third with 7,453. China's Weng Kangqiang held the old record. Lee Fu-Ar of Taiwan, the Asian champion, ended fifth at 7,036 after missing at an ambitious initial height in the pole vault and receiving no points for that event.

Asian champion Mohammad Al Makti of Oman won the men's 400 metres in 45.81 seconds, short of the games record of 45.00 and his own Asian record of 44.56. Qatar's Ibrahim Muftah was second in 46.09, and Japan's Koichi Konakatomi third in 46.85.

Mohammad Sulaiman, gave Qatar its second gold of the

games, winning the men's 1,500 metres in 3 minutes, 43.56 seconds. South Korea's Kim Boog-Yoo was second in 3:45.04 and Japan's Mitsuhiko Okuyama third in 3:45.53.

In the relay, Usha never had a chance. China's Li Guiyan gave her team a comfortable first-lap lead, and India had to struggle for the silver medal. China finished in 3:33.57, breaking India's 1986 games record of 3:34.58. India's time was 3:38.45, with Malaysia a close third in 3:38.52.

Japan's Megumi Sato wooed the women's high jump with a leap of 1.94 metres, breaking the games record of 1.89 set by China's Zheng Dazhen in 1982. South Korea's Kim Hee-Sun and China's Cao Zhongping both cleared 1.90, with the same number of misses, and shared the silver medal.

In cycling, Hideki Miwa led a 1-2-3 Japanese sweep in the men's sprint event. Then Japan won the four-kilometre team pursuit, beating China 4:34.47 to 4:41.15 in the final.

China took all three medals in the women's sprint, with Zhou Shumin winning the gold. In shooting, South Korea won three golds and North Korea one. South Korea's Park Byung-Tae wooed the men's centre-fire pistol title with a 598, one of the world record, and Lee Eo-Il edged Japan's Ryohi Koha 1,253.7 to 1,253.4 for the men's small-bore 3x40 rifle shooting gold. South Korea won the rifle event team title 3,459 to 3,440 over China.

North Korea beat South Korea 438 to 430 for the men's skeet team title, and China won the women's event, 434 to 430 over North Korea.

China won the women's air pistol individual and team golds and the centre-fire pistol team title, 1,747 to 1,743 over South Korea. The centre-fire victory made Xu Haifeng, China's Asian Games torch bearer, a quadruple gold medallist.

Japanese Judoka Hirotaka Okada beat South Korea's Kim Seung-Kyu for the men's middleweight gold, and South Korea's Kim Byung-Joo threw China's Li Jinchuan in 3 minutes, 22 seconds for the half-middleweight title.

Chinese beat Japanese for two women's judo golds, with Zhang Di defeating Ryoko Fujimoto in the middleweight division and Jin Xiangyan downing Takako Kiyabayashi in the half-middleweight.

Unlike judo, athletes competing in Wushu have no opponent, but receive points — much as in gymnastics — for their form.

Chinese took the top two places in the women's Nanchuan division, but Japan's Noriko Katsube won the bronze with 9.35 points of a possible 10. Winner Chen Libong had 9.80.

South Korea's Yeom Dong-Chul won the 82.5-kilogram weightlifting gold, and North Korea's Cho Choi Ho won it 75.3.

In the relay, Gundeep Kumar and Dhanraj Pillay scored for India against South Korea, the 1986 games winner.

Meanwhile, Pakistan, which beat the Koreans here earlier, downed China 5-0 to win the women's gold. Irfan and one each by Tahir Zaman, Anjum Steed and Shahbaz Ahmad.

Pakistan leads the standings with four victories, while India has three. South Korea stands third with a 2-2 record.

India and Pakistan are to meet next Friday in the final game of the men's hockey round robin.

The men are the fastest improving swimming team around," the U.S. coach said.

"They are the fastest improving swimming team around," the U.S. coach said.

The men are relatively smaller than Olympians, Chen said.

"Our women swimmers are also very strong because they have good psychological conditioning," he added.

Cloistered to high-altitude training before the games, the team also gained an edge by practising in the pool where the races were held.

Chinese women concentrate on strength training, evident in the muscular build of many of them.

"These are the main reason for the women's good performance. Frankly speaking, Chinese women swimmers have much harder training than men swimmers," Chen said.

"The next step is to enhance the men's training."

Werder deals Bayern Munich their first defeat of season

BONN (R) — A spectacular goal by Werder Bremen defender Uli Borowka dealt champions Bayern Munich their first defeat of the season as Kaiserslautern stretched their lead at the top of the West German soccer first division.

Borowka fired a 25-metre shot firmly into the top right corner in the 52nd minute to earn Werder a 1-0 home win.

Kaiserslautern took advantage of the defeat to take a two-point lead with a 2-1 win over Bayer Leverkusen.

The West Germans lead the holders 1-0 after the first leg.

Their male counterparts were harder pressed, snatching eight golds to Japan's seven and South Korea's one.

"I am especially happy that the women's swimmers have reached world standards in many events," said Chinese swimming coach Chen Yungpeng.

The women provided most of the excitement for the boisterous home-town crowd which packed the Yingdong Swimming Arena night after night.

A pair of petite Chinese raced the second and third best times ever in the 100 metres butterfly and another swimmer recorded the year's second best time in the 200 metres butterfly.

The capacity crowd was on its feet to watch Yang Wenyi, the world's fastest woman in the water, try to break her own world record in the 50 metres freestyle.

But despite winning easily, she failed to set a new mark, explaining later that her legs were tired.

The Chinese team's stunning progress — in 1978 it failed to win a single Asian Games swimming medal — is due partly to East German help and a huge reservoir of talent, coaches said.

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Technologie française et crise du Golfe

Spot: un satellite très courtisé

Satellite civil, destiné principalement à la cartographie, Spot intéresse beaucoup les militaires depuis le début de la crise du Golfe. Les images précises qu'il peut fournir de n'importe quel point du globe permettent de distinguer les mouvements troupes et les dispositifs militaires. Depuis le début de la crise, il est donc très sollicité par toutes les parties prenantes, mais sa société d'exploitation applique à la lettre l'embargo commercial contre l'Irak.

Autour de la planète, tournant un drôle de photographe. Rien n'échappe à sa vue perçante et il travaille vingt-quatre heures sur vingt-quatre. C'est le satellite français de télédétection SPOT 1 qui, depuis son orbite, à quelque 830 km de son orbite, fournit en continu, depuis 1986, des images de la Terre.

Des images de très grande qualité, dites «haute résolution». Choisissez sur un carte un parking, un cours de tennis, le bâtiment d'une ferme ou l'oued d'une oasis saharienne: SPOT vous en donnera une vue aérienne aussi nette que s'ils avaient été pris à vingt mètres du sol pour une photo couleur, à dix mètres pour du noir et blanc.

Le principe? Les deux caméras haute résolution du satellite balaiient, à chacun de ses passages, une bande de 117 km de large. Au bout de 26 jours, l'œil de SPOT a photographié la planète sous toutes ses coutures et il recommence en repassant sur ses traces. De plus, un savant jeu de miroirs élargit son champ de vision à plusieurs centaines de

kilomètres. Ce qui permet des prises de vue obliques et, par conséquent, la reconstitution d'images en relief.

Quant à l'acuité de sa vision, SPOT la doit à la qualité de son équipement optique. Six mille photodiodes transforment la lumière reçue en signaux électriques. Ces derniers sont convertis en données informatiques transmises aux stations de réception situées dans différents pays. Elles y sont stockées sur bandes magnétiques pour être finalement transformées en images.

Ce sont donc des outils précis pour les cartographes, les géologues, les urbanistes, les agronomes. Pour les responsables politiques aussi, dans des domaines comme la sécurité civile, la défense nationale, l'aménagement du territoire ou l'agriculture. A tout moment, il peuvent disposer d'un état réel de la surface du globe et de son évolution: désertification, dérive des glaciers, couverture végétale, déformation des sols dans les régions sismiques... ou déplacement de sites militaires.

LA SEMAINE...

de Stateman Swiss

Les mass-médias et la crise

Depuis la publication par le professeur californien H. Schiller de son livre monumental «The mind managers» - il y a quinze ans - sur le rôle des médias dans la société américaine, il n'y a plus grand chose à découvrir, sinon peut-être le développement incroyable des moyens techniques utilisés dans le domaine de l'information. Dans cette étude, que j'ai lu il y a quelques années, l'auteur analyse pertinemment la façon dont les moyens d'information manipulent l'opinion publique aux Etats-Unis. Non seulement ils déforment la vérité, mais ils créent des systèmes de valeurs que la majorité du peuple américain suit aveuglément. Par ailleurs, Schiller démontre les «mythes» sur lesquels s'appuient les mass-médias, tels que la «neutralité» et l'«objectivité»...

J'ai redécouvert l'importance de ce livre cette semaine, en relisant un grand nombre d'articles et de coupures de journaux américains relatifs à ce qu'on appelle «la crise du Golfe». De plus, une conférence s'est tenue à Amman sur le rôle des mass-médias occidentaux dans cette crise.

On dirait une «guerre psychologique» ou une guerre sur le front de l'information, dirigée contre les Arabes et non moins dangereuse que la concentration des troupes occidentales en Arabie. On colle tout ce qui est méchant, hideux, insensé sur le dos des Arabes. Ce qui est plus terrible encore, c'est l'insinuation; on prépare le citoyen à faire siennes l'image que les moyens d'information veulent donner d'une figure, en l'occurrence celle de Saddam Hussein. On cherche à le dénigrer, à l'insulter carrément, à déformer tout sur lui, à redécouvrir «sa vérité»... pour aboutir à la comparaison entre lui et Hitler. On cherche en vain une certaine ressemblance entre les moustaches des deux hommes!

L'afflux des nouvelles, des commentaires et des reportages ne s'arrête pas. Il ne concerne pas seulement l'Irak, mais touche aussi la Jordanie. A en croire certains journalistes, notre pays est envahi par le choléra, les magasins sont vides et les réfugiés venant de Koweït l'ont transformé en un lieu de crime et d'instabilité. Résultat: les touristes boudent notre pays. Or tout le monde sait ici que le calme et la stabilité n'ont nullement été perturbées en Jordanie depuis le 2 août. Il y a, certes, des difficultés économiques, mais la vie suit son cours normal.

En revanche, les crimes commis par les Israéliens à Gaza la semaine dernière n'attirent pas le moins du monde la presse dite «internationale» - de son vrai nom «occidentale».

Ces même mass-médias ne mettaient-ils pas l'opinion publique en garde, il y a quelques années, contre les pays communistes menaçant d'enverser le monde?

Curieusement, l'offensive actuelle des mass-médias occidentaux contre les Arabes n'a que peu d'influence sur ces derniers. Dans l'ensemble, ceux-ci considèrent que la déformation dont ils font l'objet résulte de ce qu'ils ont enfin dénié l'Occident et qu'ils défendent leurs propres intérêts.

Incontestablement, les prétextes «objectivité» et «neutralité» de la plus grande partie des mass-média «internationaux» se sont révélés sous leur vrai jour. Les médias sont fidèles avant tout à leurs patrons: les grandes sociétés multinationales.

Il s'agit pour nous, actuellement, de se débarrasser de la domination des médias occidentaux sur les peuples arabes. Les pays du Tiers-Monde devraient, à terme, créer leurs propres réseaux de médias indépendants, s'ils veulent protéger leurs intérêts nationaux.



Kuwait-City, photographiée par SPOT-1 en juillet 1987.

Pour la société «SPOT-images» qui commercialise les produits de ce satellite conçu par le Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales (CNES), c'est un succès. Son chiffre d'affaires a considérablement augmenté, passant de 20 millions de francs en 1986 à 130 millions de francs en 1989. Certains agriculteurs, littéralement sinistrés, doivent bénéficier d'une aide financière de l'Etat. Mais lesquels? SPOT joue le rôle de juge de paix. Ses images permettent, en effet, d'identifier précisément les secteurs touchés et de répartir équitablement les indemnités.

Costaud (sa longévité a doublé par rapport aux prévisions), discret, efficace, SPOT-1 a déjà transmis plus de 17 millions de clichés de notre globe. Dans cet étonnant catalogue informatisé bien sûr les vues idylliques d'îles Caraïbes côtoient celles, terribles, de la centrale nucléaire détruite de Tchernobyl.

Enfin, comme SPOT se fait vieux, même s'il demeure alerte, on lui a adjoint, à titre de relais, SPOT-2, lancé en janvier dernier par la fusée Ariane. Suivront les numéros 3 et 4, en 1995, puis des cousins proprement militaires baptisés «Hélios». Une carrière prometteuse pour la per-



Armand Peraldi, le père du programme d'observation SPOT.

formante et prolifique famille SPOT.

Claire Thierry et Jean-Marc Bordes

Procès du Moyen-Orient

(De notre envoyé spécial chargé des affaires judiciaires.)

L'immense salle du tribunal onusien était pleine à craquer. Devors, dans la salle des pas perdus, les plaignants, les accusés et les avocats attendaient leur tour, au milieu du brouhaha d'une foule énorme de journalistes et de curieux. A l'ordre du jour, deux affaires devaient être examinées, toutes deux concernant des lointains de terre contestées par les uns ou les autres: l'affaire Palestine-Israël et l'affaire Irak-Koweït.

Le juge Javier, chargé de présider les audiences du tribunal onusien, n'était pas un juge comme les autres. Lorsqu'il siégeait, il était tenu par cinq fils invisibles qui lui sortaient du visage, et dont chacun était manipulé par l'un des cinq Grands.

Le Grand des Grands était un immense gaillard surnommé l'oncle Sam. Il possédait un terrain vaste et riche, dont les mauvaises langues prétendaient qu'il l'avait pris de force à des Sioux, des Apaches, des Mohicans et d'autres, après les avoir complètement déclinés. L'oncle Sam avait beaucoup d'enfants, adoptifs pour la plupart d'ailleurs. Bon nombre de ses enfants s'adonnaient aux stupéfiants et à d'autres vices.

Sam tenait le fil attaché au nez du juge Javier. C'était donc le seul parmi les Grands qui pouvait mener le juge par le bout du nez.

Le deuxième Grand, surnommé l'Ours, était un gaillard fort au visage rouge, probablement à cause d'un léger abus de vodka. L'Ours avait également un immense terrain et de nombreux enfants. Mais à cause de sa gestion déplorable, il était devenu nécessiteux, au point qu'il en était arrivé à devoir

vendre quelques uns de ses enfants pour continuer à subsister. Il les vendait à prix d'or à Israël qui les adoptait aussitôt pour augmenter la force de frappe de sa famille.

L'Ours, lui, tenait le fil attaché à la langue du juge Javier. Avant de devenir pauvre, combien de fois n'avait-il pas empêché le juge de prononcer ses condamnations!

Mais les temps avaient bien changé! Maintenant, contre de bons repas de dollars (dont l'Ours était très friand) offerts par Sam, il lui arrivait souvent, lors des séances de la cour onusienne, de passer le bout de fil qu'il tenait à son nouvel ami Sam.

Cette nouvelle situation commençait à menacer sérieusement le record de condamnations détenu par Israël. Ayant la langue presque déliée, le juge Javier commençait en effet depuis peu à prononcer des condamnations à la pelle à l'encontre de tous ceux qui avaient eu le malheur de mécontenter l'oncle Sam.

Le troisième Grand, on pluttôt la troisième Grande, était une vieille dame jadis belle, riche et puissante, nommée Albion. Elle était devenue, il ya de cela bien longtemps, la petite amie attitrée de l'oncle Sam et montrait un zèle excessif à exécuter tous ses désirs, souvent même avant qu'il ne les fasse connaître. L'ennui était qu'Albion n'arrivait pas à admettre qu'en vieillissant elle avait perdu beaucoup de son charme, de sa fortune et, par suite, beaucoup de son influence. Même l'oncle Sam commençait à s'en éloigner et à flirter à droite à gauche, avec beaucoup d'autres.

Albion tenait le fil attaché à l'oreille droite du juge Javier. La quatrième Grande, Marianne, était une dame douce et distinguée, qui avait quasiment bien élevé la plupart

de ses enfants. Malheureusement, elle ne pouvait pas toujours résister à l'envie de faire de bons repas de dollars, ce qui la poussait parfois à flirter avec Sam ou avec d'autres (des Bédouins prétend-on) et à commettre des actes honteux, qu'elle finissait par regretter amèrement.

Marianne, elle, tenait le fil attaché à l'oreille gauche du juge Javier.

Enfin, la cinquième Grande, Chine, était une dame bien pauvre mais extrêmement courageuse. Elle avait une multitude d'enfants qu'elle essayait tant bien que mal de nourrir et d'élever.

Chine, elle, tenait le fil attaché à la perruque du juge Javier; elle ne pouvait donc pas lui faire de mal, mais pouvait à tout moment le ridiculiser.

Avant la séance, l'oncle Sam avait invité l'Ours et Chine à un festin de dollars, qu'il était procurés dans des terres lointaines appartenant à des Bédouins. L'Ours, se sentant un peu mal, probablement à cause d'une légère indigestion, préféra laisser le bout de ficelle qu'il tenait à son ami Sam et sortit du palais de justice. Il s'installa dans le bistrot d'en face, devant une bouteille de vodka (tradition obligée) et un hamburger (capitalisme obligé). Il se mit à penser aux moyens de convaincre nombre de ses enfants qui ne faisaient pas confiance à l'oncle Sam, que les temps avaient changé et que, d'ici quelque temps au moins, il aurait besoin des dollars que pouvait lui procurer son nouvel ami pour nourrir toute sa famille et être en mesure d'assurer à tous ses enfants des hamburgers, des hot-dogs, du Coca-Cola et des jeans.

Chine, quant à elle, resta dans la salle du tribunal. Son-

olante, se léchant les babines en souvenir du repas qu'elle venait d'ingurgiter. Elle rêvait de pouvoir, elle aussi, procurer à toute sa famille des hamburgers, du Coca-Cola et des jeans. Elle finit par s'endormir, laissant tomber nonchalamment par terre le bout de ficelle qu'elle tenait dans sa main.

À onze heures pile, annoncé par son huissier, le juge Javier fit son entrée dans la salle. Tout le monde se leva, sauf l'oncle Sam, qui, vautré dans son fauteuil (les Grands avaient naturellement le droit à des fauteuils), avait les pieds sur le dossier de la chaise qu'il occupait une femme, assise juste devant lui. Cette dame, présente en tant que secrétaire de Palestine et d'Irak, s'appelait Arabe. Les pieds de Sam la gênait et l'obligeaient à garder la tête penchée en avant, mais elle n'osait pas demander au grand gaillard de les retirer.

«Assis», cria le juge d'une voix autoritaire en s'installant sur son siège. Tout le monde se rassit, à part bien entendu l'oncle Sam qui se contenta d'allonger un peu plus ses longues jambes par dessus le dossier du siège d'Arabe, rendant la position de cette pauvre dame encore plus inconfortable et plus humiliante.

Après avoir consulté le greffier, l'huissier sortit dans la salle des pas perdus répétant d'une voix assurée, «Affaire Irak-Koweït»...

(A moins qu'un nombre suffisant de lecteurs ne l'exige, nous estimons inutile de donner la suite du compte-rendu de notre envoyé spécial, car vous avez sans doute suivi, à la télévision, à la radio ou dans les journaux le déroulement des procès du Moyen-Orient.)

Sabri Farah

EN BREF

Liberté. Un opposant jordanien, proche du Front Populaire de Libération de la Palestine (FPLP de Georges Habache), a été remis en liberté à la fin de la semaine dernière après 13 ans de détention. Beik al-Hadid, 53 ans, condamné en 1977 à la peine capitale pour atteinte à la sûreté de l'Etat, a été gracié en raison de son état de santé et à la suite de l'orientation démocratique adoptée par son parti.

Rappel. La Jordanie a décidé de rappeler son ambassadeur à Ryad, Nasser Batayneh, pour riposter à la décision de l'Arabie Saoudite d'expulser certains de ses diplomates en poste dans la capitale saoudienne. La Jordanie avait été notifiée, mardi, par l'Arabie Saoudite de la demande saoudienne de fermeture du bureau de l'attaché militaire à Ryad et de la réduction du nombre de ses diplomates accrédités auprès de ce pays de 25 à 6, y compris l'ambassadeur et le consul général. L'ambassade jordanienne continue à fonctionner.

Bureij. La direction unifiée de l'Intifada a décreté les jours prochains «journées d'escalade» dans les territoires occupés, jusqu'à la levée du blocus imposé au camp de réfugiés palestiniens de Bureij dans la bande de Gaza, et réaffirmé que les groupes de choc palestiniens allaient poursuivre les soldats israéliens «où qu'ils se trouvent». Le couvre-feu est imposé au camp de Bureij depuis le lynchage, il y a une semaine, d'un soldat israélien qui avait pénétré dans le camp. L'armée israélienne a démolie quelques jours plus tard une trentaine de maisons et de magasins dans le secteur où a eu lieu l'accident, et procédé à une vaste vague d'interpellations.

Ben Bella. L'ancien président Ahmed Ben Bella a foulé jeudi le sol algérien pour la première fois depuis dix ans, au terme d'un exil forcé en Europe. Il a aussi réclamé la constitution d'un «gouvernement national de transition» pour préparer les élections législatives anticipées, prévues pour fin mars 1991. Ben Bella a aussi appelé les Algériens à «se porter volontaires, par centaines de milliers», pour défendre «notre peuple d'Irak et notre frère Saddam Hussein».

670. Le conseil de sécurité de l'ONU a décreté mardi un embargo aérien contre l'Irak par quatorze voix pour et une voix contre (Cuba). La résolution 670 décide également l'immobilisation de tout navire irakien relâché dans un port étranger s'il est soupçonné d'avoir violé l'embargo économique et militaire, mis en place le 6 août. S'agissant de l'embargo aérien, la résolution précise que «tous les Etats refuseront la permission de décoller de leur territoire à tout aéronef qui transporterait, à destination ou en provenance de l'Irak ou du Koweït, toute cargaison», à l'exception des denrées alimentaires qui pourraient être acheminées pour des raisons humanitaires. La résolution demande également aux Etats de refuser le droit d'atterrisse et de survoler à tout avion irakien se rendant en Irak ou au Koweït. Bien que la chose ne soit pas explicitement précisée, il semble que l'embargo ne porte pas sur les avions transportant des passagers.

Menaces. L'Irak a menacé de pendre des Américains non diplomates réfugiés à l'ambassade des Etats-Unis à Bagdad, au lendemain de l'adoption par le Conseil de Sécurité de l'ONU de la résolution étendant au trafic aérien l'embargo contre Bagdad. L'Irak a par ailleurs annoncé qu'il coupera les vivres à tous les étrangers bloqués en Irak ou au Koweït à partir du 1er octobre, affirmant ne plus pouvoir subvenir à leurs besoins alimentaires pour cause d'embargo.

Réserve. Le président George Bush a décidé jeudi de puiser 5 millions de barils dans les réserves stratégiques de pétrole des Etats-Unis et de les mettre en vente, pour tester les capacités du pays à le faire en cas de pénurie. Stockée dans d'anciennes mines de sel de Louisiane et du Texas, la réserve stratégique a été progressivement constituée en réponse à la décision des Etats arabes membres de l'OPEP, en 1973, d'intervenir, les livraisons aux pays soutenant Israël. Les stocks stratégiques des Etats-Unis sont actuellement de 590 millions de barils et représentent environ 100 jours d'importations.

Rushdie. L'écrivain Salman Rushdie évoque l'*«enfer»* de sa vie de proscrit et se déclare à nouveau «désolé» d'avoir offensé des Musulmans avec son livre *«Les versets sataniques»*, dans sa première interview télévisée depuis la fatwa qui le condamnait à mort, il y a 18 mois. L'annonce de cette interview, qui doit être diffusée aujourd'hui par la chaîne anglaise privée ITV, a coïncidé avec le rétablissement jeudi des relations diplomatiques entre la Grande-Bretagne et l'Iran.

Disparition. Le romancier Alberto Moravia est décédé mercredi matin à Rome, à l'âge de 83 ans. Considéré comme l'un des plus grands écrivains italiens du XXème siècle, Alberto Moravia était devenu célèbre dès son premier roman, *«Les indifférents»*, publié en 1927, et dominé, depuis, la scène littéraire italienne. Sa dernière œuvre doit paraître bientôt: une biographie sous forme d'interview, réalisée par l'écrivain Alain Elkann, chez Bompiani.

Philippines. Seize officiers et soldats, dont un général, ont été condamnés vendredi à la prison à vie

Economy

Gulf crisis, Soviet changes hurt Cuba

HAVANA (R) — President Fidel Castro has said the Gulf crisis and changes in the Soviet Union were hurting Cuba and he appealed for a new sacrifice to save the island nation's communist system from economic collapse.

"It is impossible to foresee what the situation will be in 1991... we might have to work with less and less and even with zero," the grey-bearded, 64-year-old leader said in a three-hour speech to chiefs of neighbourhood block committees Friday night.

The speech marked the 30th anniversary of the Committees for the Defence of the Revolution, set up by Castro a year after he led the 1959 revolution that toppled right-wing dictator Fulgencio Batista.

Castro also cited growing disruptions in oil and other raw materials exported to Cuba from the Soviet Union, and Soviet plans to trade in convertible currency at world market prices from 1991 onwards.

This, coupled with soaring oil prices caused by the Gulf crisis, put a heavy squeeze on Cuba's sugar-exporting, oil-importing economy.

"Just work out what these two

factors mean for Cuba," Castro said.

For Cuba to continue buying each year the 1.3 million tonnes of oil it imported from the Soviet Union, he said, it would have to produce 26 million tonnes of sugar — an impossible figure that is more than three times its average annual harvest.

Castro said it was almost inevitable that Cuba would have to adopt an emergency austerity plan, known in official government jargon as "a special period in time of peace."

The authorities are already drastically restricting fuel distribution and extending rationing of food, clothes and other goods because of delays in Soviet shipments.

"The current limitations may become much more serious," Castro said.

"So what are we going to do? Give up the revolution, socialism, our independence? Never."

"We have to save our country, save the revolution, save socialism. That is our task."

He said the uncertainty surrounding Cuba's future economic relations with the Soviet Union had raised doubts about the fate of major economic projects being



Fidel Castro

U.S. budget negotiators race for an agreement

WASHINGTON (R) — Racing to a Sunday midnight deadline to start shutting down some government services, White House and congressional negotiators are sweating over a deficit-cutting plan that might even include politically explosive trims in social security pension benefits.

Some bargainers were optimistic they would meet the Oct. 1 fiscal year 1991 deadline, although they were also worried about getting Congress to approve a pact that might be too unpopular with voters.

Bush's envoys — White House Chief of Staff John Sununu, Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady and Budget Director Richard Darman — were meeting late Friday with five congressional leaders to work out the voluntary deficit-reduction package in a bid to avoid chaotic cuts in government services.

Under the German-Rudman deficit-reduction law, automatic government spending cuts of about \$100 billion will begin Monday morning and result in lay-offs of thousands of federal workers — from air traffic controllers to Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) agents.

Besides apparent White House willingness to soften somewhat Bush's demand for a capital gains tax-cut as part of the package, one measure of the heat the negotiators felt was the disclosure they were discussing possible trims in social security to help bring deficits down.

Normally, the social security old-age and welfare benefits programme is politically sacrosanct, especially in an election year like this one.

But Senator Lloyd Bentsen, Democrat of Texas, said in a television interview that social

security was indeed on the negotiating table.

"What you're seeing thrown up as options is a delay in the benefit, COLA (cost of living allowance) delay of three or four months, whatever that might be, or an alternative of taxing the income of those that have more income on social security benefits," Bentsen said.

"And those two options — and they're very painful, politically explosive options — are on the table. And they've been discussed by each side," he added.

Later, House of Representatives Republican Leader Bob Michel of Illinois, one of the budget negotiators, said rank-and-file Republicans favoured the option of freezing cost-of-living adjustments on social security for three or four months.

But the Democrats favoured

increasing the top income subject to the social security tax, Michel said, adding that from the Republican viewpoint "a tax increase is rougher."

As the bargainers babbled over such issues as social security and what if any form of capital gains reduction Bush might get, some of them seemed to be putting out feelers on selling whatever agreement might be found.

House Democratic Majority Leader Richard Gephardt of Missouri indicated on Friday that there would be much in the package that members of Congress and their constituents would dislike.

"If we get a package I would hope people would look at the positive side of getting it done and having deficit reduction," he said. "If all of us just focus on the individual negative features we're going to miss the forest for the trees."

Gulf war doomsday scenario haunts economy policymakers

By Rich Miller
Reuter

WASHINGTON — Economic policymakers put a brave face on their ability to ride out the Gulf crisis at this week's annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank, but beneath all the rhetoric lay an unspoken fear — what if war breaks out?

Just the spectre that this might happen sent oil prices skyrocketing to 10-year highs this week, a scenario barely envisioned in the carefully crafted economic forecasts of the IMF and the World Bank.

Both groups see the world economy weathering the oil shock without suffering a recession, but admit all bets are off if the stalemate in the Middle East turns into a shooting war.

"Provided the situation does not deteriorate sharply from the current projections, our best estimate is that the problems will remain manageable," IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus told the annual meeting.

However, the World Bank has put together an economic doomsday scenario that shows oil prices

soaring to \$65 if war breaks out.

That would be more than three times the price before Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait and would be sure to trigger a global recession and an inflationary spiral.

In the dry words of the World Bank report, that outcome would be "qualitatively different" from that hoped for now.

"If... war breaks out in the Middle East, Iraqi, Kuwaiti and Saudi oil fields could suffer long-lasting damage, effectively removing up to 10 million barrels of oil per day from the world market."

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein raised the spectre of just such an occurrence earlier this week when he threatened to blow up oil fields in the Gulf, if his country is strangled by the sanctions.

"I don't know if the market is rational at this point. It's moving on emotion," said Steve Platt of Dean Witter Reynolds.

That sudden rise raised the possibility that even the bank's forecast of \$65 oil could prove too conservative in the event of hostilities.

The twin oil shocks of the 1970s — which saw oil prices first quadruple, then treble on top of that

— unleashed an economic nightmare that still haunts rich and poor countries alike.

The developing world is saddled with \$1.2 trillion of debt run up in the 1970s as commercial banks went on a lending spree with the petro-dollars they gathered from suddenly rich Arab sheiks.

And industrial countries, especially the United States, have still not fully tamed the inflationary pressures that first reared up in that decade.

But officials here are quick to point out that some things have changed for the better since then.

The industrial world is more energy efficient and has set aside large stockpiles for just such an eventuality.

President George Bush said Wednesday he would crack open America's emergency reserves, selling five million barrels of oil in a bid to contain the skyrocketing prices.

In one sense, that decision could be taken a sign that Bush believes the diplomatic and economic drive to get Iraq out of Kuwait will work and war will not be necessary.

Energy agency chief says members will not sell oil reserves

PARIS (R)

Western member nations of the Paris-based International Energy Agency (IEA) show no signs of copying the United States' test sale of strategic oil stocks, the organisation's chairman said Friday.

"We have no information that another country intends to make a test as the U.S. has," said Ulrich Engelmann, who was speaking at a news conference in Paris after the IEA's third meeting since the Gulf crisis.

But the West's energy watchdog agency called on its 21 member countries to prepare to draw on government stocks in case oil supplies decreased significantly.

It also asked them to prepare to introduce curbs on demand for oil, which could accompany such a stock draw.

"The industrial world is more

energy efficient and has set aside large stockpiles for just such an eventuality.

It said it would convene a top-level meeting empowered to take action if world oil markets faced further shortages following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait Aug. 2.

No drawdown yet

Engelmann said, however: "we do not consider that the situation warrants governmental stock drawdown. The timing of such an action will be of the utmost importance."

President George Bush said Thursday the United States would hold a test sale of five million barrels of its 590-million-barrel strategic petroleum reserve.

The sale was intended as a

technical test of the reserve and was too small — equal to about six hours of oil demand in North America — to affect prices.

Eight weeks after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, world oil markets remain adequately supplied and member countries have experienced no shortfall in oil products, the IEA said.

"Available government-owned and government-controlled stocks and government-mandated demand restraint measures would be sufficient to meet any but the most extraordinary shortfall," it said.

But it said surplus capacity would be used up quickly in the event of a cold snap or an accident. This meant IEA countries must be prepared for rapid, coordinated action.

No shortage

As current higher oil prices reflect market speculation and not a physical shortage of oil, the United States is not expected to push the IEA to take immediate action.

"We don't see the urgency of pressing them so hard right now," U.S. Energy Secretary James Watkins said Thursday. "Worldwide stocks right now are above the norm."

West Germany and Japan, two major oil importers, have also said they oppose an immediate drawdown of the estimated 1.7 billion barrels of oil held by governments and companies.

Oil prices have more than doubled since Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, although output from the countries banned from world markets by a U.N. trade embargo, has been largely offset by extra oil from other major producers.

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JPMC announces the invitation to tender No. 22F/90 for the supply of (chemicals, glassware and lab equipment).

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Managing Director

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Performances: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.
Friday & Sunday extra show at 11:00 a.m.

PLAZA
Mahmoud Abdul Aziz -
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Performances: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

RAINBOW
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Tel: 634144
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LADIES AND
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ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE

MINISTRY OF WATER AND IRRIGATION/ WATER AUTHORITY INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) TENDER NO. 18/90/SP SUPPLY OF BLACK STEEL PIPES

1. The Water Authority of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has received a loan from the World Bank in various currencies towards the cost of the Water and Sewerage Project and it is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contracts for the purchase of 30 km 8" and 12 km 12" Black Steel Pipes.
2. The Water Authority now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply of Black Steel Pipes.
3. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the documents at the office of the Secretary General of the Water Authority, Shmeisani, P.O. Box 2412, Amman, Jordan. Telephone 680100, Telex 22439 JO, Fax 679143.
4. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by an eligible bidder on submission of a written application to the above address and the payment of non-refundable fee of JD 200.
5. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in the amount(s) specified in the Conditions of Contract and must be delivered to the above office not later than 12:00 hours, Jordan local time, on Saturday 20/10/1990.

Eng. Mutazz Belbeisi
Secretary General
Water Authority

S. African union leader urges Dutch to keep sanctions ANC leaders assail government at 1st conference in 30 years

CAPE TOWN (R) — South Africa's white government still wants blacks to "bow down to their bayonets and jackboots," an African National Congress (ANC) leader said at a conference in Cape Town Saturday.

The ANC Saturday opened regional conferences in Johannesburg and Cape Town, the first since President F.W. de Klerk legalised the movement after 30 years in exile.

The last major ANC meeting in South Africa was a national congress in 1959, shortly before the movement was banned and two years before its leader, Nelson Mandela, was jailed.

ANC Treasurer Thomas Nkobi, a member of the policy-making National Executive Committee, told about 500 delegates to the Cape Town conference that De Klerk's government was following a two-pronged policy of negotiation and destabilisation.

"They are using every vile tactic to weaken our movement. The vicious violence unleashed on the reef (Johannesburg) is aimed at destroying our spirit of resistance and defiance. They want us to bow down to their bayonets and

jackboots," he said.

Nkobi said the black township violence that has claimed almost 800 lives since mid-August was fuelled by the police and the military.

Reg September, leader of the ANC in the western Cape Province, said the movement should concentrate on recruiting members and organising branches.

"We are moving from the politics of protest to the politics of the challenge for power."

"We need to channel the skill, the energy, the courage which went into challenging the regime on the streets into challenging them in the political arena," he said.

In Johannesburg, Mandela's former cellmate and now the internal leader of the ANC, Walter Sisulu, said the ANC was poised to lead the people into the last lap of the struggle for democracy.

"For the ANC to play a leading role in the struggle of the people, we must attract all the people of South Africa," he said.

ANC officials said a series of regional conference would prepare the movement for its first

national congress since 1959 in Johannesburg in December.

They said ANC leaders appointed from within the underground organisation would stand for election by members for the first time in December and policies would be ironed out in debate.

In another development, the leaders of South Africa's biggest trade union federation urged the Netherlands Saturday to retain economic sanctions against Pretoria despite De Klerk's reforms of apartheid.

"It would be the gravest political mistake to lift sanctions and help De Klerk with his problems," Jay Naidoo, general secretary of the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU), said in a speech to a Dutch trade union group in Amsterdam.

"Pressure must be maintained to force De Klerk to bring about genuine political change," he said. "Internationally we need more political support than we've ever needed in the past."

"There is incontrovertible evidence that the security forces are fuelling the violence in South Africa," Naidoo said.

37th bomb explodes in Philippines

MANILA (R) — A bomb exploded Saturday outside a Manila complex belonging to the U.S. company Procter and Gamble, but there were no casualties, police said.

The 37th blast in the Philippines in seven weeks damaged the pavement in front of the complex housing a single-storey drugs plant and two-storey administrative building of Procter and Gamble Philippine Manufacturing Corp., a subsidiary of the U.S. firm.

The military blames the bombings on right-wing army rebels seeking to overthrow President Corazon Aquino.

The bomb attack was one of a series this week against U.S. companies. The military has blamed the attacks on army rebels who have launched six coup

attempts against Aquino since she took power more than four years ago.

The rebels have warned they will not let Aquino finish her term which ends in 1992.

Meanwhile Communist rebels warned the government of Aquino Saturday against forging a secret deal with the United States on extending the stay of American bases in the country.

The Communist umbrella group National Democratic Front made the warning in a statement issued to news agencies.

The front, comprising 14 underground Marxist organisations, includes the Communist Party of the Philippines and its armed wing, the 19,000-member New People's Army.

"We hope that the Aquino government will desist from its

continuing attacks on the people's livelihood, economic well-being and democratic rights, and from forging secret deals with the U.S. and the (U.S. military) bases' tenure and justify it by so many deceptive formulas," the statement said.

The front said any deals extending the stay of U.S. forces in the country can "only aggravate the crisis, further divide the nation and close the avenue to peace."

The lease allowing the United States to use Clark Air Base, Subic Bay Naval Base and four other installations expires on Sept. 16, 1991. Any extension would have to be in the form of a treaty approved by the 23-member Philippine Senate, where opposition to the U.S. bases is strong.

Japan defence aide tells U.S. military to go home

TOKYO (AP) — A Self Defence Agency official harshly criticised pending U.S. legislation threatening a withdrawal of U.S. troops from Japan if Japan does not bear their full cost, news reports said Saturday.

"Go ahead and go home" said an unidentified high-ranking official of the Self Defence Agency, quoted by the nationally-circulated Asahi Shimbun.

The U.S. Congress is being ridiculous. We have never asked the (U.S. military) to stay in Japan," the official said.

The Defence Agency would not confirm the official's comments.

The U.S. House of Representatives earlier this month overwhelmingly passed a bill demanding the pullout of 5,000 U.S. soldiers from Japan if it does not agree to pay all the expenses covering the 50,000 U.S. military

personnel stationed there. The bill has not yet been passed by the Senate.

In the current fiscal year, Japan is paying 365.6 billion yen (\$2.7 billion), or about 45 per cent of the cost of maintaining the 50,000 U.S. forces in Japan, according to the Foreign Ministry.

Japan has been steadily increasing its share of paying the expenses for the U.S. military in recent years, often in response to U.S. requests to bear more of the burden.

Kyodo News Service said many officials in the Defence Agency oppose U.S. demands for increased spending on the bases because the expenditures would eat up other parts of Japan's defence budget.

The special one-judge court is to hear the case Sunday in Karachi.

The 37-year-old former premier was also expected to appear before another tribunal in the eastern city of Lahore Tuesday on similar charges.

If she's convicted of any of the four charges, she could be disqualified as a candidate in the Oct. 24 elections and barred from politics for seven years.

Ms. Bhutto's husband, Asif Ali Zardari, has also been summoned before the Sindh High Court Sunday for allegedly failing to cooperate in police investigations into high-level corruption.

Zardari, a 38-year-old businessman, was also expected to appear before another tribunal in the eastern city of Lahore Tuesday on similar charges.

He is accused of corruption and was summoned before the Sindh High Court Sunday for allegedly failing to cooperate in police investigations into high-level corruption.

Ms. Bhutto was elected to office in November 1988.

President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, using his constitutional power, dismissed Ms. Bhutto's government on Aug. 6 and installed a caretaker government comprised largely of her opponents and former allies.

In a stinging and lengthy indictment, Ishaq Khan accused Ms. Bhutto's government of corruption, incompetence and abuse of power, alleging among other things that it plundered the national treasury, used hundreds of millions of rupees (tens of millions of dollars) in special funds to buy votes and political favours and awarded lucrative business deals to friends and relatives.

Ms. Bhutto has denied any wrongdoing and accused the president and the caretaker government of launching a witch hunt against her, her government and her left-learning Pakistan People's Party.

Bhutto to appear before tribunal

KARACHI, Pakistan (AP) — Ousted Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto said Saturday she will appear before a tribunal on charges of misconduct and abuse of power during her 20 months in office.

"I don't recognise the tribunals," Ms. Bhutto said after a speech before the Karachi Chamber of Commerce. "But I will go there and my lawyer will present my objections."

The special one-judge court is to hear the case Sunday in Karachi.

The IRA boasted Friday that it could strike "at will" after managing to plant a bomb at a London anti-terrorism conference which had been patrolled by police and a private security firm.

The bomb, timed to go off Thursday morning during a scheduled address by Foreign Office Minister William Waldegrave, was spotted by staff at the building and defused by police shortly before the conference was to begin.

Waldegrave had postponed his speech at the last minute and would have escaped the blast, but the IRA's apparent ease in entering the building has renewed a debate about Britain's security against guerrilla attacks.

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1,000 prisoners of conscience held in China — Asia Watch

PEKING (AP) — A U.S.-based human rights group Friday issued a list of about 1,000 prisoners of conscience being held in Chinese jails — the most comprehensive accounting to date of such detainees.

Most of the prisoners listed by Asia Watch, a New York-based human rights group, were arrested after the June 4, 1989, military crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators.

Sidney Jones, Asia Watch's executive director, said the aim of the report was to keep the prisoners from being forgotten.

"We are concerned that human rights in China as an issue is going to fade from public view. ... We want to make sure that these names become very much in the public eye," she said in a telephone interview.

Asia Watch also hopes the report will help gain the release of those listed, she said. The group planned to try to give a copy to Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen, who is in New York City to attend the opening of the United Nations General Assembly.

The Chinese government did not immediately respond to the report. It generally rejects criticism of its human rights record as interference in internal affairs.

Thousands of Chinese nationwide were detained or arrested immediately after last year's massive, student-led democracy

movement was put down. The Asia Watch report lists the names and backgrounds of the 867 prisoners whose cases are known, and enumerates about 200 other arrests as well as executions reported by the official Chinese media without giving names.

Only 226 of the 1,000 prisoners listed in the report have been tried. Sixty-seven were sentenced to death or executed.

Called "Repression in China Since June 4 1989," the report is far more comprehensive than those issued previously by Asia Watch and other international human rights groups.

It includes people from every segment of society — students, intellectuals, peasants, workers, and government officials — from all 29 of China's provinces and regions.

The focus has been on Peking when people think about (the crackdown), but it's been widespread throughout China," Jones said.

The government has announced the release of 881 people in Peking and Shanghai over the past year, but has refused to say how many remain in jail nationwide for political offenses.

Among those named in the report are such well-known figures as Liu Xiaobo, a literary critic who was on a fellowship at Columbia University when the Democracy Movement began

and the caretaker government of bonded labour, prostitution and abandonment, as well as poverty affecting billions of people of all ages around the world.

And despite strong language in

the draft supporting the family as an institution, the declaration also seeks to protect children from abusive parents and by implication makes the state and the community at large responsible for their welfare.

U.S. President George Bush is attending, along with politicians as diverse in their views as Albania's Ramiz Alia, Czechoslovakia's Vaclav Havel, Uganda's Yoweri Museveni and Argentina's Carlos Menem, to name just a few at the end of their meeting Sunday.

But the draft also reflects the universality of adults' mistreatment of children in bonded labour, prostitution and abandonment, as well as poverty affecting billions of people of all ages around the world.

Missing from the conference will be the children themselves, although a group will make a symbolic appearance to read the declaration at the closing ceremonies.

The only women leaders are

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, Nicaraguan President Violeta Chamorro and Dominica

Prime Minister Eugenia Charles.

Geography and problems at home are reflected in the guest list, limited to heads of government or heads of state.

Only two are from the Middle

East — the Emir of Kuwait and the Prime Minister of Lebanon.

Some 20 come from the Americas, 23 from Europe, 17 from Africa and eight from Asia.

Among specific goals the draft

asks the world to meet within a decade are a drastic reduction of child and maternal mortality rates, malnutrition and adult illiteracy rates, particularly among women.

In addition, the leaders are to

pledge themselves to provide an

education for at least 80 per cent

of all school-aged children in the

world by the year 2000.

Non country is singled out by

name but there is an obvious

reference to South Africa's discriminatory racial practices and Middle East tensions, in a reference to the "plight of millions of children who live under especially difficult circumstances as victims of apartheid and foreign occupation."

Bush is to announce a programme to eliminate polio,

measles and other childhood diseases as well as efforts to help children suffering from AIDS,

the new scourge that threatens to wipe out decades of medical advances.

Several European leaders have

said they will use their Sunday

speeches to stress the importance

of family planning as a necessary

goal to improving conditions for

the great majority of children.

Most unusual for any U.N.

gathering will be the length of

their speeches — limited to four

or five minutes.

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